



**saltchurch.**

DATE	BIBLE	DATE	BIBLE
24-30 Apr	<a href="#">Before we begin</a>	22-28 May	<a href="#">God's People</a>
1-7 May	<a href="#">God's Glory</a>	29 May-4 Jun	<a href="#">God's Timing</a>
8-14 May	<a href="#">God's Mission</a>	Wed 7 June	<a href="#">Grow</a>
15-21 May	<a href="#">God's Gifts</a>	12-18 June	Deuteronomy

## OUR NEW HOME SERIES

You've probably heard by now about our desire and need to secure a new-long term home for Salt Church, to help us see a flood of lifelong disciples in Wollongong and beyond for many years to come. Over 6 weeks we're running *Our New Home Series* to explore why and how we'll do this, with the prayerful aim of raising \$1 million over 3 years.

In this series we're going big, really big! We'll look at 6 big ideas that shape not simply a building but our whole lives - God's glory, God's mission, God's gifts, God's people, God's timing and God's promises. Our pastors think this series will likely be a defining moment in our spiritual growth and unity as a Church, where we'll look back at how much God grew us in these 6 weeks. We're praying that in *Our New Home Series* God would...

1. Help us all grow in spiritual maturity – in love for God, love for the lost, joyful sacrificial service, having an eternal-focus, being radically generous like our God.
2. Help us grow in unity as a church family – connected and united in our vision to reach Wollongong for Christ.
3. Help us be clear on why and how we're seeking to secure a new home so we do this wisely and together.
4. Help us raise \$1 Million over 3 years, and would provide a great building for His work through us in Wollongong.

**So plan to come!** Each week is a good one to come on Sunday and to Small Groups. But commit to come every week of this 6-week series. That'll be super helpful for our Church and for your own Christian life and growth.

# USING THESE NOTES

Since this is a different kind of series to what we normally do, we're switching a few things up...

## WHAT'S THE SAME:

We're keeping the symbol-based code to help you easily work out which questions might best suit your Small Group.

→ **Simpler:** questions with this arrow symbol → trace 1 idea through a passage. So they're great if you have time pressures, less mature Christians in your group, or just want to unpack and apply 1 big idea.

++ **Bonus:** questions with this plus symbol ++ fill-in the picture more. So they're great if you want to dig deeper or explore a few extra ideas. You don't need to ask every bonus question; just pick the best ones.

## WHAT'S DIFFERENT

We'll look at the passage *after* Sundays sermon rather than before.

We usually explore the passage in Small Groups first then it's preached on Sunday, so we're not simply waiting for our pastors / the bible experts to tell us what it means; we're all wrestling with the bible together to grow.

Why switch it up? So we have a chance to reflect on and explore how what we heard on Sunday applies to us in our unique circumstances. We really want to grow in this series. We don't simply care about raising \$; we care far more about our hearts and spiritual lives. Plus God wants cheerful generosity which flows from the gospel and his generosity to us.

So we'll have sermons first, then Small Groups, so we have the time and space within the safety of our Small Groups to really dig into what this means in practice for each of us and how it speaks to our excitement, fears, sin, greed, joy and dependence on God.

# BEFORE WE BEGIN • 24-30 APR

**DIRECTION:** This bible discussion comes before the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday sermon (on 30 Apr). So we'll set the scene for our *New Home* series by 1) briefly exploring 'buildings' and where God lives with his people in the bible, & 2) seeing questions and themes we'll come back to over the next 6 weeks of this series. The big aim for this 1<sup>st</sup> week is just to *introduce* these ideas and get everyone's *initial* reactions, as we pray God will grow us in this series so we finish in a different place to where we started.

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## LAUNCH:

→ When you think 'building' in the bible, what do you think of?

## BIBLE:

→ What do these verses tell us about where God lives with his people?

Exodus 40:33-35, 1 Kings 8:10-12

John 1:14, Colossians 1:19

John 14:23, Acts 17:24, 1 Cor 6:19, Eph 2:19-22

→ How does God's dwelling place change across the bible?

++ How does it feel to know God lives in us by His Holy Spirit?

→ We often call 275 Keira St "church / salt church / the church building". After reading these passages, what's helpful/unhelpful about calling it this?

→ So if God now lives in us not in a building, do buildings matter at all?

++ How do these verses help us see the usefulness of buildings?

Acts 1:12-14, 2:46-47, 19:8-10, Romans 16:3-4, 2 John 6:10-11

## PREPARING FOR THIS SERIES:

→ What are you expecting and hoping for in *Our New Home* series?

→ What could be the dangers / risks in running a series like this? Dangers for you? Dangers for our Church? Dangers for visitors to our Church?

→ We're seeking to raise \$1 Million over 3 years.

As a gut reaction, if you were asked to give your final commitment right now, how much \$ would you give? (i.e. \$1000 / yr for 3 years, so \$3000).

→ Write that figure down somewhere to come back to during this series.

**PRAY TO END:** Ask God to prepare us to grow and be generous, and to protect us from Satan's attacks on the unity of our Church.

## MEET SHAUN ROBINSON

Shaun is on our building committee. He is married to Kelsie and has been part of our 5pm Gathering for 6 years. After completing his engineering studies at Wollongong Uni, and several jobs in Shellharbour Council he now leads the asset management department in Wingecarribee Shire Council, managing the infrastructure networks of the Shire. In our New Home series he's praying for, and excited to see, God unify and empower the people of Salt Church.



*Do you have suggestions or questions about our New Home? Our building committee and pastors would love to hear them! Sent them to [newhome@saltchurch.info](mailto:newhome@saltchurch.info)*

# GOD'S GLORY • 1-7 MAY

**DIRECTION:** The big idea this week is what we heard on Sunday: that God's glory matters most to him, God's at the centre of everything and he will glorify his name. So in this study we'll 1) dive into a few passages about God's glory to see again how important it is; 2) explore how we can personally glorify God in our own lives; and 3) consider how a building fits into all this – we ultimately want a New Home for God's glory because it'll help us glorify God, and God's glory is what matters most.

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**PRAY TO START:** Help us glorify you in all we do as disciples and a Church

**FROM SUNDAY:** On Sunday we kicked off *Our New Home* series.

→ What do you remember from the sermon on Sunday?

→ What things did you find interesting or helpful?

→ What questions, concerns, or frustrations came up for you?

**BIBLE:** Let's look again at some key passages about God's glory.

→ In pairs or as a whole group look up these verses and fill in the table.

Ex 33:18-23	Ps 115:1	John 2:11	2 Cor 3:18
Psalms 19:1-2	Ps 145:9-13	John 15:8	Phil 2:9-11
Psalms 86:9-10	Isaiah 42:8	1 Cor 10:31	Rev 21:22-26

++ *Here's more if you want extra verses to look up on your own later...*

<i>Ex 14:1-4, 17,18</i>	<i>Isaiah 40:3-5</i>	<i>John 8:54</i>	<i>Eph 1:11-14</i>
<i>Ex 24:15-18</i>	<i>Isaiah 43:5-7</i>	<i>John 12:23-29</i>	<i>Phil 1:9-11</i>
<i>Ex 40:34-35</i>	<i>Isaiah 48:9-11</i>	<i>John 12:37-41</i>	<i>2 Thess 2:13-14</i>
<i>2 Chron 7:1-3</i>	<i>Ezekiel 1:25-28</i>	<i>John 17:1-5</i>	<i>2 Tim 2:10</i>
<i>Psalms 29:1-11</i>	<i>Hab 2:12-14</i>	<i>Rom 5:1-3</i>	<i>Heb 1:3</i>
<i>Psalms 57:5-11</i>	<i>Luke 9:28-36</i>	<i>Rom 15:5-13</i>	<i>1 Pet 1:9-11, 21</i>
<i>Psalms 96:1-8</i>	<i>Luke 24:25-26</i>	<i>1 Cor 6:19-20</i>	<i>1 Pet 4:11</i>
<i>Isaiah 6:1-3</i>	<i>John 1:14</i>	<i>2 Cor 4:4-6</i>	<i>Rev 5:11-14</i>

What is God's glory?	How is it seen: in creation, God's action, Jesus, etc.	How do we bring God glory?

## OUR LIVES:

→ After reading this, what in your heart would you love God to change?

++ What could you do / stop doing to bring God more glory in your life?

## AMY ON GOD'S GLORY

Amy is part of our 10am Gathering. We asked her how she tries to remember and celebrate God's glory in her life.

*Meditating on God's glory brings right perspective to our lives, and unquenchable joy to weary or distracted souls. So I look at God's world and spend time appreciating His glory in creation, which reveals lots about him (Rom 1:20). I take a deep breath as I watch the sky change colour at sunrise, and marvel at his glory. Or I take a moment to pause and wonder at God's glory on display in every living, breathing, human body. I also read and memorise scripture (like Revelation 4:11 and Romans 11:33-36). And I sing to God, for his glory deserves more than a quiet nod from me, and it engages my heart to the truth of his glory in a different way.*



## A BUILDING:

→ As we seek to secure a new home for Salt Church what are some traps or dangers we should avoid, related to things we've looked at today?

→ How could a building be used for God's glory?

PRAY TO END: Pray that our lives – individually, as a Small Group and as a whole Church – might be lived for God's glory.

FYI: Don't forget the Q&A + Prayer Session this Sun 7<sup>th</sup> May. We'll also run the same thing again on Mon 15<sup>th</sup> May at night if you can't make this one.

## MEET ROB ROYTERS

Rob is on our building committee. Rob has been married to Karen for nearly 40 years and they've both loved being part of the Salt Community since late 2016. Rob works part-time as a consultant engineer, with a Masters in Engineering and an MBA. Rob brings lots of wisdom to our Building Committee from a range of life, church and career experiences, including involvement in building campaigns at other churches. He is praying God will use our gifts and generosity to further His Kingdom, and for God to clearly lead us as we seek a New Home for Salt Church.



*Do you have suggestions or questions about our New Home? Our building committee and pastors would love to hear them! Sent them to [newhome@saltchurch.info](mailto:newhome@saltchurch.info)*



# GOD'S MISSION • 8-14 MAY

**DIRECTION:** As individuals, as a church, at 275 Keira St, and (God-willing) in our New Home we want to share the hope of Jesus with our lost city. Why? 'God wants all people to be saved' (1 Tim 2:4). In these notes today we'll follow the same pattern as last week: reflect briefly on the sermon, look at a key passage on God's mission, explore what this might look like in our lives, and then in a new building. We're a few weeks into our *New Home* series by now, so keep helping people to talk honestly about their hopes and fears for this campaign. Also spend a bunch of time praying this week – there's many suggested prayer points at the end.

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**PRAY TO START:** Help us to love the lost as much as you do God.

**FROM SUNDAY:**

- How did you become a Christian (the short version)?
  
- Was there a particular building / venue / setting where that happened?
  
- What were the highlights for you from the talk on Sunday?

**BIBLE:** Read **Luke 24:44-53**

- What do you think v47 means: *"repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations"*?
  - Why does it involve "repentance"?
  - Why is it "for the forgiveness of sins"?
  - Why is it "in his name"?
  - Why is it "preached"?
  - Why is it "to all nations"?

- Try to re-say v47 in your own words.

++ Read 1 Timothy 2:1-4. How many people does God want to save?

++ What do you think the connection is between a) our prayers for people, b) living holy lives, and c) God wanting all people to be saved?

## OUR LIVES

→ What is our role (as individuals & a Church) in helping people be saved?

→ What do you find hard about evangelism? Exciting about evangelism?

*If you'd like some inspiration and practical ideas to help you in evangelism, listen to Sam Chan on "How to tell your friends about Jesus". This easy to listen to talk is brilliant for anyone struggling to take those first steps. Have a listen to it here: [genevapush.com/resources/how-to-tell](http://genevapush.com/resources/how-to-tell)*



## A BUILDING

→ How might having our own building help us share the gospel in Wollongong? What could be some benefits of a more permanent space?

++ Christians are sometimes not welcome in some spaces. Given that our culture is becoming increasingly hostile to Christianity, what's the wisdom in us seeking to secure our own long-term venue?

→ What do you think of what Mark Thompson says (on the next page)?

→ Have you ever experienced what he's describing?

*In strange ways, buildings can actually draw people in. We have people who come into our new building [at Moore College], who just come in because they have seen this new building and wondered what it is. I've been to churches where they've had that same experience: where people have seen the building, wondered what's going on there, come in, and been converted. That's wonderful!*

**Mark Thompson. Principal of Moore College**



**PRAY TO END:** There's lots to pray about!

- For the people of Wollongong and the Illawarra who don't trust Jesus
- For us to be an outward-looking mission-focussed Church
- For our own hearts, boldness and courage in evangelism
- For protection from persecution and Satan's attacks
- For God's provision of a building that we can share the gospel with

An interesting quote from Acts 19:8-10 and (below) the ruins of Ephesus.

*"Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly there for 3 months, arguing persuasively about the kingdom of God. But some of them became obstinate; they refused to believe and publicly maligned the Way. So Paul left them. He took the disciples with him and had discussions daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. This went on for two years, so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord."*



# GOD'S GIFTS • 15-21 MAY

**DIRECTION:** We saw on Sunday that God is outrageously generous: He gives us everything we have. And, as well as blessing us, God is kind enough to warn us of the dangerous lure of greed and money. This week we're getting very practical: sharing (if people are willing) how much \$ we're hoping to give to our new home, and ways we can increase our income and decrease our expenses. We're not doing this to pressure people – as we've heard in this series, generosity is measured at the heart. But we also don't want to say no for anyone or rob each other of the joy of giving to God and being generous like our God. It is a tricky tension, so pray for wisdom, honest conversations and for God to guard our love and unity as a church.

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**PRAY TO START:** Help us to become generous like you are God.

**LAUNCH:** ++ Growing up did your family have lots or little money?

**FROM SUNDAY:**

→ What do you remember from the sermon on Sunday? Anything you found interesting or helpful? Any questions, concerns, or frustrations?

**BIBLE:**

→ The Bible has so much to say about money, greed and generosity. The following verses are a sample. Read a few of them (in pairs or as a group)

→ What do we need to avoid in regards to greed and money?

→ What is great about generosity?

1 Chronicles 29:14-17

Mark 12:41-44

2 Corinthians 9:6-11

Proverbs 3:9-10

Luke 12:13-15, 32-34

1 Timothy 6:17-19

Matthew 13:22-23

2 Corinthians 8:1-9

Hebrews 13:5-6

**OUR LIVES** → Where does this affect you personally?

→ What could you do to put off greed and be more generous?

## A BUILDING

→ In the first week of this series in Small Groups we asked this:

*“As a gut reaction, if you were asked to give your final commitment right now, how much \$ would you give? (i.e. \$1,000 / yr for 3 years, so \$3,000). Write that \$ figure down somewhere.”*

Ponder on your own for a sec: what \$ figure would you pick now?

→ Have you felt pressured to give \$ during this series? Why, why not?

++ If people can only give a little \$ at this time, what truths from the Bible should we remember? (E.g. Mark 12:41-44, 1 Cor 12:18-20)

→ How do you feel about Michael's announcement on Sunday of what some of our key leaders are giving? Do you understand why he did this?

*(You could explore these passages to think more about this: Matt 6:1-4 (on the dangers of boastful giving); John 3:19-21 & 1 Cor 4:5 (on the dangers of secretly concealing sin); 1 Tim 4:12 & Hebrews 13:7 (on leaders setting an example).*

## PHOEBE ON GENEROSITY

Phoebe is part of our 5pm Gathering. She's in her 1<sup>st</sup> year of full-time work. With not heaps of spare \$, we asked her how she seeks to be generous.

*The poor woman in Mark 12 always springs to mind when I'm tempted to doubt I can make any difference. She was commended for her small donation, despite others around her giving far more. As a young professional it's similarly hard to donate lots to church. But it's worth making the effort to give what \$ we have, and to manage \$ carefully so we have more to give. This could look like borrowing an outfit instead of buying a new one, car-pooling to save the petrol money, planning ahead so you don't order take away, hosting your friends instead of going out again, running outside instead of paying to use a treadmill at the gym.*



*God has already considered you worth the life of his Son, and everything we have is His already. So like the woman in Mark 12 give what we have, even if it's little. It's worth it!*

→ Do you feel comfortable sharing how much \$ you're hoping / planning to give with another person in our Small Group? Why, why not?

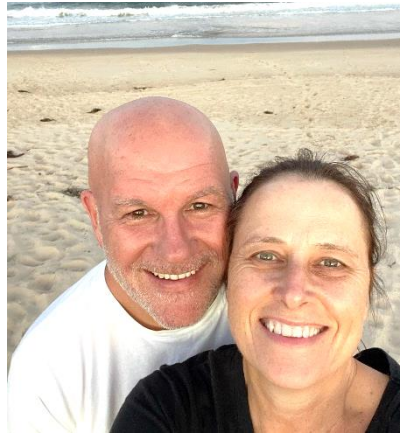
++ What are some practical ways you or our small group could increase our income and decrease our expenses?

E.g. we could all cancel our Netflix subscriptions for 3 months, eat-in for our next Small Group social but give the \$ we would've spent on eating-out to the building fund, everyone bring an item for our group to sell on Facebook marketplace, etc. Let's get creative!

**PRAY TO END:** In pairs (if you're comfortable) share and pray about how much \$ you want to give. Ask God to help our church and all Christians everywhere to be radically sacrificially generous all the time, like God is.

## MEET ANDREW FISHER

Andrew is on our building committee and our Admin Committee. He's married to Annie and has 30 years experience running and guiding businesses as a management consultant. He created Jesus Racing to challenge the paradigms of who Jesus is to everyday Australians. He also created the Life Choices Foundation through which he has spoken to over 350,000 High School students and 1000's of inmates at gaols and detention centres. He has a heart for challenging people to consider in who, and in what, they are placing their trust. He has previously served on the building committee at a large church and brings lots of experience to help us as we seek to secure a New Home for Salt and for generations to come.



*Do you have suggestions or questions about our New Home? Our building committee and pastors would love to hear them! Sent them to [newhome@saltchurch.info](mailto:newhome@saltchurch.info)*

# GOD'S PEOPLE • 22-28 MAY

**DIRECTION:** God has made a new people for himself: the Church. We have the privilege of belonging to him and to each other. Church is people not a building. But the building the church meets in – our family home if you will – has a big impact on our life together. It's where we gather to learn together, love each other, cry, celebrate and pray together. We want to secure a new building to help us grow as disciples and to love each other better. This week we'll briefly explore the kind of community God wants us to be, and then how a new family home might help that. Also reminder: this Sun we'd love people to bring their commitment cards along.

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**PRAY TO START:** Help us to love each other and live as your people.

**LAUNCH:**

→ Winston Churchill said *"We shape our buildings, thereafter they shape us"*.

How have the *homes* you've lived in shaped your relationships? E.g. did you share a room as a kid? Did you eat meals at a table all together?

++ How have your *workplaces* shaped relationships? E.g. what work-places felt good or bad to work in?

++ How have the buildings your *church* met in shaped relationships? E.g. what building features helped or hindered relationships?

**BIBLE**

→ Look at these passages (in pairs or as a group) to get some snapshots of what it looks like to be God's people together.

→ Read **Eph 2:1-3 and 4:17-19** – what was our old way of life like?

→ Read **Eph 2:19-22** – how has God built a new people for himself?

→ Read **Eph 4:2-3, 4:25-28, 5:15-20** – what should God's new community of people look like?

## OUR LIVES

→ Are there things we immediately want to put into practise from this?

## A BUILDING

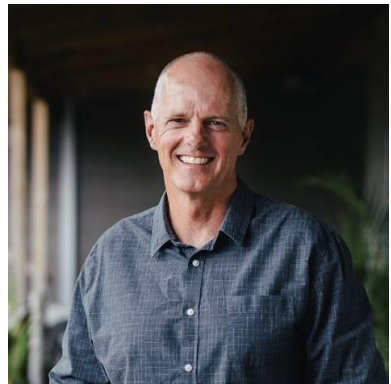
→ Why are people more important than buildings?

→ How might a building help to grow relationships at Salt Church?

→ How has 275 Keira St helped or hindered us in growing relationships?

++ What do you think of what Andrew Heard says here?

*For us to have a space that we can call ours and settle in, shape it and make it to work for us, has facilitated hugely the sense of being together, being a fellowship, being one with another. It has given people a centre in which we can do so much more. Even the funerals! People now feel comfortable that we can have a funeral that is ours. Weddings, these kinds of things. It's a funny thing I never would have anticipated. We're a family and we have a family home now that can facilitate life as a family.*



**Andrew Heard, Lead Pastor at EV Church**

→ This Sunday (and next Sunday) we're bringing our pledge / commitment cards. Do people feel ready to make a \$ commitment to our *New Home*?

→ Anyone need help still to work out what is generous yet wise for them?

**PRAY TO END:** Ask God to grow our relationships at Salt and to provide the finances we need to take a next step in securing our new home.



## A TANGENT ON UNITY

Building projects can traditionally be testing times for churches, so here's a tangent on unity and division. The Bible teaches that we *have* spiritual unity as a church, grounded in the unity God enjoys as 3 persons in 1 God. We're united with God through our union with Christ (see John 17:11, 20-23 and Eph 4:3-6). God calls us then not to *create* unity but rather to *keep* the unity we already have (Eph 4:3). This unity is expressed in things like service, growth, endurance and love (Eph 4:11-16).

Since our unity is so important, the Bible warns us to avoid division. Especially in regard to divisive false teaching and false teachers (see Rom 16:17-18 and Jude 18-19). Sometimes, though, the issues are not so much about teaching but relational. In this case there's an urgency for Christians to reconcile divisions and be of 'one mind' (see 1 Cor 1:10, Phil 2:1-4, 4:2-3).

The Bible doesn't have explicit guidance on a building project, but it has plenty of great principles, including the need to have godly servant leadership from our pastors (1 Pet 5:1-4), for all of us to respect our leaders (Heb 13:17), to be careful with our speech (James 3:1-12), not to tear people down with our words but to build them up (Eph 4:29-32), not to assume the worst of each other but to be slow to anger and rich in love to each other (1 Cor 13:4-7). This shapes how we maintain and celebrate our unity, even as we at times disagree or experience relational tension.



Thankfully our pastors and building committee are striving to be as godly and consultative as possible. If you have concerns about our New Home that you haven't raised with them, they would love to talk to you.

# GOD'S TIMING • 29 MAY-4 JUNE

**DIRECTION:** As we heard on Sunday, God's plans outlive us. The gospel didn't start with our generation and (unless Jesus returns first) it will continue long beyond our generation. So God's given us responsibility not just to trust and share the gospel ourselves *but to also* pass it onto the Next Generation. We want a new home for *future* generations of Christians to keep sharing the gospel with our lost city. We also have only one more sermon to go (this coming Sun) in this series before we move to Deuteronomy. So as well as exploring and applying this idea, take time to give thanks to God for all that He has taught us and done amongst us in this series.

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**PRAY TO START:** Help us to love the lost like you do Lord.

**LAUNCH:** ++ Tell us about an older Christian who has invested in your life.

**REFLECTIONS ON THIS SERIES:**

→ What has impacted you most across our whole New Home series?

→ What do you want to give thanks to God for from this series?

**BIBLE:**

→ Read **Deut 6:5-7, Proverbs 22:6, Mark 9:36-37, Eph 6:1-4, 2 Tim 2:2**

→ What do these verses call us to do?

→ Does this feel exciting to you or quite a challenge for you?

→ How could you put this into practise more in your own life?

++ Read **Matthew 19:13-15**. Jesus values the kids brought to him far more than his disciples do. Does this encourage / challenge how you view kids?

## A BUILDING

→ How could a New Home for Salt Church be a useful way to obey these commands from God?

→ How would you feel if you gave \$ to our New Home but then had to leave the Illawarra (for work / study / family / etc), and so never got to be in the building – would you be disappointed? Why, why not?

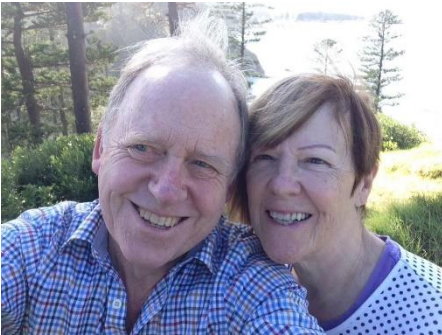
++ If you have kids, how could you teach them to be generous with money?

→ This Sunday (if we didn't do it last week) we're bringing our pledge / commitment cards. Do people feel ready to make a \$ commitment?

→ Anyone need help still to work out what is generous yet wise for them?

## GLEN AND JULIA ON INVESTING

Glen and Julia are part of our 10am Gathering. We asked them how they invest in the Next Generation.



*We have always been keen to support and invest in Christian ministry to the next generation. Over the years our three boys grew and matured through Christian ministry in the local public school, and especially in the local Church youth group, and later in their uni Christian groups.*

*But there is increasing opposition to people speaking of Christ in schools and campuses, and it is our regular prayer that the message of hope in Christ can continue to be spoken, and children and youth challenged, in public schools and at tertiary institutions.*

*So it's a great privilege for us to be able to support - both prayerfully and financially - ministry to the next generations through primary school scripture (with Quiz Worx), on some university campuses (through AFES) and at Salt Church through Next Gen and MTS.*

**PRAY TO END:** Praise God for the spiritual growth and unity he's brought to us and our Church over these last weeks in our New Home series.

Ask God to provide the finances we need and a great building in the right location at just the right time. Pray God would safeguard our church and the churches around us for many generations to come, so we can keep holding out the gospel to Wollongong.

## AL STEWART ON BUILDINGS

We asked Al Stewart (National Director of the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches that Salt Church is part of) what he would say to someone who was thinking about giving to a Building for our Church...

***"Don't you have a saying, 'It's still four months until harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest." (John 4:35)***

*As I travel around the country speaking with our FIEC churches, I'm more and more aware that our independent churches need to own their own buildings. Of course, we trust in a sovereign Lord to build his church, but under God we also need to act responsibly. There are many factors, some growing in seriousness year by year, that mean for the long-term security and growth of our churches we need a secure and functional place to meet. I've seen again and again, when a church finally has its own property, that home for members to invite people to and the greater community awareness it brings, has meant a significant growth in attendance.*



*It's a big project to own a building, it takes prayer and sacrificial generosity. But it's a project that God will bless, for generations. **Al Stewart***

# GROW: NO SMALL GROUP • 5-11 JUN

**Grow is on this Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June, 7-9pm including dinner.**

It's going to be an especially exciting one as we announce how much was given – in pledges and actual cash in the bank – over the course of our *New Home* series. We'll also share what the next steps are to secure our new long-term home for Salt.

This is a moment you won't want to miss and we really want every member of Salt Church to come to *Grow* – for everyone who calls Salt their home to be there or to watch the recording after if they really can't come in person.

But in case you or someone in your Small Group has never been to a *Grow*, here's what they're all about

## **Why Come to Grow?**

We know that many of us have busy lives with lots of responsibilities. So getting to Church and Small Group regularly is enough of a challenge, yet alone coming out for a moment like *Grow*.

Also, many of us at Salt feel like we already know our Church's vision and we're on-board with it, so it doesn't really feel worth coming to *Grow* – there's nothing new to hear and I could definitely use a night off.

There's also a bunch of us at Salt who have never been to a *Grow*, so don't really know what it is that we're being encouraged to get along to.

Whatever camp you're in, here's where *Grow* fits and why *Grow* matters.

## **Bus Versus Boat**

You may have heard Salt's pastors describe Salt as a rowing team not a bus. On a bus 1 person drives and everyone else comes along for the ride. If you're not driving, you don't have to contribute to the trip, you hop on and off when you want, you get somewhere because of the driver.

But on a rowing team 1 person might steer the boat, but you only move forward if everyone rows; if the team works together to make it happen.

## **God's Vision for Salt Church**

Jesus has given all his people a massive task: “...go and make disciples of all nations... teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matt 28:18-20). So we want to play our part and see a flood of lifelong disciples of Jesus in Wollongong and beyond – that’s what Jesus wants to see and it’s what Jesus deserves.

## Why Grow Exists

We don’t want to do this solo though – each of us trying to make disciples or growing as Christians on our own. We also don’t want to be a bus – a handful of us doing this and the rest just kicking back, along for the ride. We want to be a rowing team, for the glory of God.

But without moments like *Grow* it’s very difficult for us to row together as a whole Church. At *Grow* we plan and pray about how we’re going to do this *together*. What kind of Church do we want to be? Where are we heading as a Church? Where is God guiding and leading us? It’s like a family meeting, or the team huddle just before we put the boat out on the water.

Each *Grow* is different too. The big vision doesn’t change; it shouldn’t as it’s God’s vision that he gives to every Church and all His people. But how we achieve that vision, the strategy, the next steps, the different roles we can each play – that’s what changes. So each *Grow* we dive into the next steps to take as a Church family. Not what’s coming up this week, but what we’re doing in the next 3 months, this year, where we want to be in 5 years.

As well as all that, *Grow* is just like Sunday Church in that we get to meet together as God’s people for fellowship, to enjoy being a community, to listen to and learn from our good Father.

## How You Can Help

To make it easier to come we don’t run Small Groups the week *Grow* is on. Instead, go to *Grow* that week for bible teaching and fellowship. We moved *Grow* to be mid-week too, so we still have some energy in the tank and less competing plans. So can I encourage you: come to this *Grow*, and help others from your Small Group come too. Each *Grow* is an encouraging and crucial moment for Salt. We want to grow – that’s what Jesus deserves.





saltchurch.

*So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*

Matthew 6:31-33