

Step Up, Lean In, Reach Out – Growth Group Study

Bible Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:6–16

10/2/2019 – John Malcolm

John spoke about an induction service he attended where the new minister gave a sailing ship wheel to the congregation.

What might a ship's wheel represent in the life of a church?

Are any of the group interested in sailing and know about the doldrums? Why was it difficult for sailing ships to make progress in the doldrums?

How might our long summer break be a bit like the doldrums for church activities?

Step up

Read Isaiah 6.8, Jeremiah 24.15 & Matthew 4.18-22

What do we learn about stepping up from these verses?

Consider the church highlights from 2018.

Share with the group some of the activities you stepped up to be involved in and which of them you found most rewarding.

Looking back on your life do you remember the first church event/ministry/activity you were involved in? Why did you become involved? Have you typically found stepping up to be a duty, burden, joy, challenging, life changing ...? Explain your view to the group.

Lean in

Read Proverbs 3:5–6

What do these verses teach us about trusting God and finding direction in life?

John told of a tree adventure using a safety harness and carabiner to hold him on the zipline. Have you ever engaged in a sport, hobby that required a safety harness/equipment to take your weight in times of danger (mountain climbing, abseiling, parachuting)? If so, tell the group about it and explain how you could trust the safety equipment?

Do you think leaning in towards God is safe or unsafe – why?

Can you think of a time in your life when you consciously trusted in God? Share something of that experience with the group.

Read Matthew 6:10 & John 4:34

How is trusting *God's will* like leaning on God?

Have you ever been in a situation where you had to decide between two courses of action one of which you knew was God's will? If it is appropriate discuss this with the group.

Which did you decide to follow?

What difference did this choice make to your life?

Read Jeremiah 6:16, 29:11–14 & 1 Corinthians 2:10–12,

What does this teach about the thoughts of God?

How does this give us confidence we may expect to know or understand God's will?

If someone asked you, how would you explain what it means to *have the mind of Christ*?

Read, Amos 3.7, John 15.15 & Hebrews 1.1-2

How does God generally reveal His will to us?

Reach out

Read Joel 3:14 Matthew 9:36–38 & 28:19–20

What do these verses teach us about our responsibility to connect with people in the community?

What are some examples of how our church connects with the community?

How do the events/ministries you have mentioned help us connect with people?

What would help you to feel more confident about making connections between church and community?

Is there something you could do as a group (supporting and encouraging each other) to reach out to the community?

(Perhaps come as a team to support the light party, come as a group to the prayer day, work as hosts to provide supper for converse/marriage course ...)?

For personal reflection:

How will you step up, lean in and reach out this year?

Highlights 2018

Children

1. Welcoming children in the year at mainly music and playgroup
2. Kidzone at Mt Eden & Epsom beginning with fun to unite the children with leadership from Marisa, Yun Young and Val.
3. Holiday programmes with children making friends and learning about God *Go for Gold, Story-tellers, Shipwrecked, News Flash, Christmas*
4. Pledges to support the employing a Children's ministry Coordinator (currently \$18,200 for two years)
5. A grant of \$7,000 from mission pathways to support our Children's work
6. Rachel Paton-Simpson joining our team bring gifts of care & creativity
7. The joy of White Sunday with children/young people leading the service
8. Pirate's light party, fun, games and food
9. Messy church Christmas – Christmas crafts, food and fun
10. Rosie Graham appointed as Children's Ministry Coordinator

Youth Group

11. Summer activities
12. Friday night fun with new junior group *The Pack*
13. Friday night bible study with senior group *Focus*
14. Sunday morning – growing in faith and new 9am meeting
15. *Emerge* – young adults getting to know each other and growing in faith
16. *Youth services* including a focus on mental health
17. Hannah attending the World Council of Reformed Churches meeting in South Korea. (And in Germany)
18. *Mystery tour* youth group and all ages event
19. *Transformers camp* – youth group learning about leadership
20. *Advent youth service* – Lanterns, cookie decorating and Christmas story

Adult ministries

21. *Global missions' lunch* – prayerfully supporting our overseas missionaries
22. *Growth Group kick start* in February with 22 people sharing resources
23. Chit Chat friendship among women.
24. Men's tea, wonderful meals at different homes with a variety of speakers
25. Mary and Danny beginning a Korean language Growth Group
26. Je Cheol forming a Chinese language Growth Group
27. Continuing fellowship at established Growth Groups (58 people attending)

General

28. *BBQ Church*, enjoying warm summer evenings, making friends, enjoying a meal together and connecting with new people in the community (With between 60 and 90 people attending each week)
29. The joy of meeting new people each week and knowing many of our visitors and guests have made Greyfriars their church home.
30. Our *Prison team* taking services and connecting with men at Mt Eden
31. *8-2-8 prayer day* – dedicating the year ahead to God and seeking his will (32 people attending church at different times of the day to pray)
32. *Seasons of Prayer* – uniting our hearts and minds to pray for our church
33. *Café Services* with various guests including nurses, teachers and engineers
34. *Sunday Funday*, enjoying games, friendship, laughter and fun for all ages
35. Development & Planning morning – Ideas and plans for the year ahead, including a discussion of our building plans
36. Increased financial support from the congregation and a significant donation of \$80,000 to help with the mission of the church and building project

37. *Converse* - café style discussions using *Discipleship Explained*
38. Growing participation in our *New Migrants class* which is helping people in our community learn *Kiwi-Culture* and learn about the bible
39. New musicians joining our Sunday worship teams
40. Combined *Good Friday* service uniting local churches around the cross
41. *Easter Sunday* service – Children decorating the cross at Epsom
42. *Welcome lunch*, helping people feel at home at Greyfriars (19 new people attending)
43. Morning prayer meetings (Thursday/Saturday)
44. The joy of welcoming seven new members through our Membership class
45. *Can day* 451 cans of food for those in need
46. *Cultural service*, lunch and concert uniting us as a church family
47. *Spring Praise* – offering generous worship to God
48. *Soup and rolls* – sharing friendship and food in people's homes
49. *56 Shoeboxes of Christmas gifts for children*
50. Membership classes – Welcoming new members into our church family
51. Myanmar Guests with stories of mission, outreach and church building.
52. 5th Anniversary amalgamation service at Epsom with Posh morning tea
53. Women's Christmas dinner with carols, games and food.
54. Team sewing *Bags of Love* with 80 bags donated to women's refuge
55. Carols and readings with choir and ensemble.
56. Christmas Eve candle light service
57. Christmas morning celebrations