

Making the most of your 'Sabbath'

Your eyes slowly peel open as you look over at the alarm clock next to your bed. It reads 8:30am. On any other day you would be panicking but not today. Today is your day off! The slow morning gives way to brunch or lunch outside. The afternoon is whiled away with family and friends or pottering around the home and garden. The evening might be a dinner get together or a quiet one at home. But as the day closes one thought enters your mind as you fall asleep: what made this day off, this 'sabbath', distinctively Christian?

After last week's sermon a few people raised the same (and great) question: what does rest in a Gospel-centred way look like? Here are some thoughts.

First, it looks like... well... rest! We were encouraged from Leviticus 23 and 25 that resting is part of God's design for our lives. When we stop and rest we remind ourselves that God does not—and that He is the One who sustains all things. To refuse to rest is to say to God that we cannot trust Him to provide for us. So first, rest looks like pausing from our work.

Second, it looks like thankfulness. God's instructions for the sabbath throughout the OT are connected with their release from slavery in Egypt. There they had no rest. So the Sabbath was the day set aside to rest from their work and reflect, with thanksgiving, on all that God has done for them (cf Deut 5:12-15).

Third, it looks like holiness as we imitate our Creator. The sabbath was also designed to help God's people imitate God—who also rested from His creation work (cf Exodus 20:11). Pausing from our work is a part of our ongoing holiness.

So, from these non-exhaustive thoughts here are some practical suggestions.

Begin your day in thanksgiving prayer. I know that some of us are used to finishing our day in prayer, but on your day off start it with thanksgiving. Families can practice this as well—beginning their rest days (and even holidays) with thanksgiving to God: acknowledging that rest is good for us, and that God has given us this day.

Spend time recounting God's grace to you during the week. As you're driving somewhere or chatting over lunch or dinner, spend time sharing as a family (or with our friends) what God has been doing in your life and how you have seen Him at work in each other. This simple activity of rejoicing is not only highly encouraging but thoroughly refreshing.

Commit to reading scripture and a helpful book. It doesn't have to be for long, but enough to work your mind during the day. Whether it is a family devotional book, something topical or doctrinal, or even a biography, let your reading be of encouragement to you on your rest day.

There's some starting suggestions. What would you add?



1 December 2019 | Service Times: 9am & 11:30am

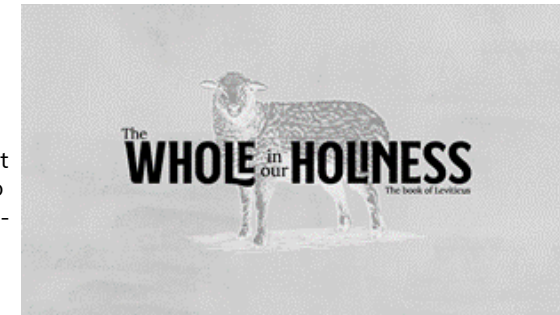
Welcome, we're glad you're here!

We are a church family committed to following Jesus Christ as Lord. We do this by getting to know him through his living Word, the Bible, which is why the sermon is the key part of our Sunday services. Find out more about us at www.slechurch.org.au.

This Week: The Whole in Our Holiness 8 — Call to Covenant Faithfulness

The LORD God called Israel to be faithful and obedient to the covenant, promising blessing and warning against curses. This Old Covenant was good, but flawed, and it looked forward to the greater New Covenant in Christ, which contains greater blessings.

Next Sunday: Psalm 3



Today's Service

Welcome and Singing	What Child Is This You Made Us Your Own Oh Church Arise
Holy Communion	
Offering	
Community News	
Bible Reading	Leviticus 26; Hebrews 8:6-13
Sermon	By Pastor Ben Ho
Song of Response	This Life I Live

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Check out slechurch.org.au/groups to find a group that you can join.

Say hello

Join us for morning tea at 10:30am.
We'd love to have a chat and get to know you better.

Our Pastors

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Financial Update

Last Week	\$9,512.58
Weekly Required	\$5,750.00
Shortfall 2019	\$0.00

Giving by Electronic Funds Transfer

A/C Name: SLE Church
Bank: National Australia Bank
BSB: 084-424
A/C No: 396558544

SLE Church is a branch church of Chinese Christian Church Brisbane

Prayer Points

PRAISE GOD FOR THE REST AND FEASTS THAT GOD GIVES HIS PEOPLE!

Praise God that He gives so many feasts and that each feast helps us understand all that Jesus has done for us! Praise God that He gave His people many opportunities to rest and celebrate what God had done for them.

PRAY THAT WE WOULD CHERISH OUR HOLY CALLING

to gather as God's holy people for fellowship. Pray that we would take seriously the call to meet together to worship and serve God.

THANK GOD FOR THE REST WE HAVE IN CHRIST.

Pray that we would take rest seriously, to stop from our daily work to rest: reflecting on God's goodness to us. Pray that we would trust God enough to rest from our daily work.

CONTINUE OUR PRAYERS FOR RAIN.

Pray that the God, the Creator of all, would graciously send down rain to ease the drought and quench the bushfires.

Community News

BAPTISM 8 DECEMBER

A baptism will be held at church on 8 Dec. If you are interested in getting baptized, please speak to Pastors Ben and Steve asap.

SERVICE TIME AND LOCATION OVER SUMMER

From 15 December 2019 to 26 January 2020, the 11:30am service at the South Hall will be changed to 11am service at the North Hall.

Over this period, both the 9am and 11am services will have its overflow at the White Door Room.

CAROLS @ SLE

Date: Sunday 15 December

Time: 5-6pm (sausage sizzle from 6-7pm)

Address: St Lucia Evangelical Church, 83 Ryans Road, St Lucia.

An evening of Christmas carols for everyone!

Kids especially welcomed!

You are invited to join us for a sausage sizzle and ice cream after the carols event!

Doors will be open at 4:50pm and carols will begin at 5pm.

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES

Wednesday 25 December, 9am and 11am services.

Please bring a plate of morning tea to share between services.

Serving

	Today	Next Sunday
Chair	Ps Steven	Bryan
Prayer	Ps Steven <i>Ps Steven</i>	Mike <i>Ivy</i>
Preach	Ps Ben	Ps Steven
Bible Read	Ps Steven <i>Alan</i>	Boon Cheng <i>Marilyn</i>
M.Tea	Daisy, Winnie T.	Jem, Steph Choi
Wash Up	Sunday YF	Clay
Welcome	Philip Mee Lan Esther	Philip Mee Lan Esther
Stewards	Ken Richard Simeon <i>Cam</i> <i>Josiah</i> <i>DT</i>	Ken Richard Simeon <i>Cam</i> <i>Josiah</i> <i>DT</i>
Piano	Joanna	Liesl
Guitar		Jabez
Bass	Ethan	Ivan
Drums	Jabez	John
Vocal	Liesl	Alisha
PA	William <i>Stan</i>	

Call to Covenant Faithfulness [Leviticus 26]

1. Introduction: The Great Relationship Drama

Exodus: salvation

Leviticus: provision for connection

The call to faith and obedience... inevitable failure?

2. Revering God and Being Blessed (vv1-13)

A. Revering God (1-2)

B. Being blessed (3-13)

3. Rejecting God and Being Cursed (vv14-39)

A. Rejecting God (14-15)

B. Being cursed (16-39)

C. Curses—for what purpose?

4. Covenants Compared

A. The Old Covenant: good, but flawed

B. The New Covenant: greater in every way!

5. Conclusion

The call to faith and obedience...