

6 Steps to Presuming on God's Grace

To presume on God's grace is to take for granted, or assume, that God will show favour towards you. It is a thoroughly dangerous place to be, and as we'll see in Jonah 2 it has dangerous consequences for how we relate to God and to our world.

Nobody, I hope (!), intentionally presumes on God's grace. But how do we get there? Here are six steps to the process, not necessarily all in order, and all of them subtle drifts from intentional gospel-centred thankfulness and humility.

1. *Assume the gospel.* This means we are not clear on what the gospel is, we don't actively or explicitly teach it, we articulate it only when speaking with a non-Christian, and we shift it from centrality to our thinking/lives. Our Bible studies, gatherings, sermons, or other teaching moments do not bring the gospel in—it is merely assumed in the background.
2. *Refocus on your good works.* Next step is to subtly shift emphasis in your good works from being a response of faithfulness to making them about keeping your status of grace. You're not earning salvation, you're keeping salvation (by being good enough to have earned it...)*
3. *Form an echo chamber.* Surround yourself with those exactly like you—in opinion, in age, and even in race or nationality. Finding people of like mind is crucial here. Reduce or don't mix with non-Christians. Remember they need grace, but they've got to really want to know God. Sticking with an echo chamber is also very comfortable and secure.
4. *Focus your Bible reading on yourself.* The task here is not to read in order to understand God's plans and purposes in Jesus Christ. Rather you are trying to find yourself in the story. It will help to look for heroes of the faith who should be imitated—because by imitating them you show yourself to be one who has true faith.
5. *Focus your prayers on yourself.* Spend a lot of time on your physical needs and wants. If you must pray for others focus on their spiritual needs alone (and not their physical needs), for it will make you feel very spiritual.
6. *Ignore sin.* You know that you're not perfect, but it's ok—God knows it and has already shown you grace. There's no need to acknowledge the wrongs you have done, no need to confess sin, and therefore no need to repent. And there is no special need to do this publicly, or as a congregation.

Bonus step:

7. *Be a consumer not a builder.* When it comes to church your job is to receive teaching and give in your offering. Anything that requires building your brothers and sisters up in faith and maturity is purely optional.

Some of these steps may be tongue in cheek, but in concert together they work to build a person who presumes on God's grace. Living this way long enough brings about the following devastating words, "I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness." (cf Matthew 7:23). Friends, may we never presume the grace of God—may it always be central to our lives and be truly awesome and profound as it is meant to be.

* Irony intended.



01 March 2020 | Service Times: 9am & 11:30am

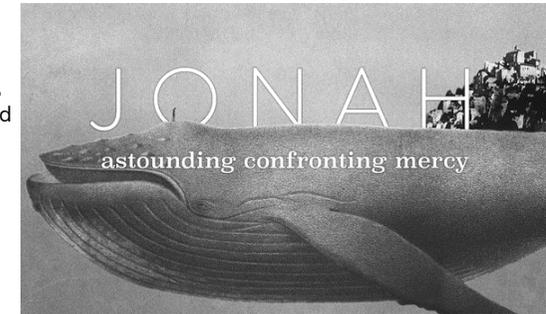
Welcome, we're glad you're here!

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: Jonah — Saving Mercy

Jonah prays with no hint of repentance, presuming God's salvation, and expressing self-righteousness, yet God saves. God's saving mercy truly is great and our Jonah-like responses to it must be recognised and repented of.

Next Week: Jonah 3



Today's Service

Welcome and Singing	His Mercy is More And Can It Be The Lord is My Salvation
Holy Communion	
Offering	
Community News	
Bible Reading	Jonah 1:17-2:10; Ephesians 2:1-9
Sermon	By Pastor Ben Ho
Song of Response	Have Mercy on Me

Stay Connected

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	83 Ryans Road, St Lucia 4067

Check out sle.church/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	\$7,052.75
Weekly Required (adjusted)	\$6,294.00
Shortfall 2020	\$636.00

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 MERCY WE SAW

IN JONAH 1. Praise God that those who were far from Him (i.e., the Pagan sailors) came to a knowledge, fear, and worship of Him. Praise God that we, like them, have been given mercy in Christ to know, fear, worship, and find life in and through Him.

PRAY THAT WE WOULD NEVER

PRESUME upon God's mercy and grace. Pray that we would never assume that we are deserving of it, or that we have somehow earned it. Pray for God's grace to help us not only remember that we are great sinners but that He is our great savior. Pray for humility and grace-saturated thankfulness for how we are saved in the gospel.

PRAISE GOD FOR THE MANY

NEWCOMERS who have visited our church in recent weeks. Pray that we would maintain our warm and welcoming environment at church, especially for future visitors. Pray that we would be able to connect with those who are new and welcome them into our community and friendship circles in order to encourage them and build them up in Christ.

PRAY FOR THE ONGOING COVID-19 (NOVEL CORONAVIRUS) ISSUE. As our world continues to ramp up security and quarantine concerns, pray that we would lovingly care for each other—whether that would mean temporarily quarantining ourselves or sacrificially caring for each other in sickness.

Community News

CHURCH-WIDE TRAINING 15 MARCH 1:45PM-3:30PM NORTH HALL

Title: Striving Side-by-Side for the Gospel—Unity and partnership in SLE Church 2020 and Beyond.

Strongly encouraging ALL Leaders and those who are committed to the medium and long term future of this church to attend.

More information can be found on communications that have gone out during the week—emails, FB announcements.

FIRST BLOOM SESSION OF THE YEAR – TITUS 2 TIME

21 March, Saturday

1:30-4pm

North Hall

SAVE THE DATE–

SPECIAL DAY CONFERENCE 9 MAY

A special Day Conference presented by The Gospel Coalition Australia, together with Queensland Theological College, will be held on Saturday 9 May. The link provides further details: <https://www.qtc.edu.au/event/facing-a-task-unfinished>

SLE Church will be organizing a church group registration and discount. Please keep an eye out for that information.

Serving

	Today	Next Sunday
Chair	Ps Steven	Randy
Prayer	Ps Steven <i>Ps Steven</i>	Mike <i>Mike</i>
Preach	Ps Ben	Ps Ben
Bible Read	Boon Cheng <i>Marilyn</i>	Matthew <i>Alan</i>
M.Tea	Swee Vien, Georgie	Winnie T., Alicy Huynh
Wash Up	Sunday YF	Saturday YF
Welcome	Ken Steph Esther <i>Steve, Andrew</i>	Ken Steph Esther <i>Sonja, Andrew</i>
	<i>Marilyn, Sean</i>	<i>Marilyn, Sean</i>
	<i>Jun Hao</i>	<i>Jun Hao</i>
Stewards	Sunny Philip Graham <i>Edwina</i> <i>Aaron</i> <i>Alan</i>	Sunny Philip Graham <i>Edwina</i> <i>Aaron</i> <i>Alan</i>
Piano	Joanna Pan	Liesl
Guitar	Keith	Jabez
Bass	Liesl	Ivan
Drums	Ivan	Nigel
Vocal	Huiming	Swee Vien
PA	Reuten <i>Stan, Caroline</i>	William <i>Matt T., Millie</i>

2. Jonah—Saving Mercy [Jonah 1:17-2:10]

1. Introduction

2. Saved by the Fish (1:17, 2:10)

3. Jonah's Prayer: At a Glance

4. Jonah's Prayer : A Closer Look

a. No recognition and repentance of sin

b. Shifting blame

c. Presumption of grace and mercy

d. Superiority and self-righteousness

5. Implications

a. God's saving mercy to the undeserving

b. Taking God's mercy for granted

6. Conclusion