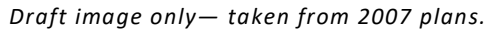




STUDY GUIDE

MARCH – MAY 2019





Be prepared to be inspired and challenged as we seek God together about the future of Kaiapoi Baptist Church.



There is no other reason to build a church.

BUILDING FOR LIFE

Introduction

THIS YEAR WE ARE BELIEVING FOR A MIRACLE.

As a church we are at a crucial point in the life of the church. For many years there have been conversations, dreams, ideas and critiques of our current facilities. Over forty years ago a pioneering and committed group of people built the building we call home. It is a testament to their faith, sacrifice and vision for Kaiapoi and the wider North Canterbury area. It has stood the test of time, and even survived the quakes!

In 2007, a conversation began about making changes. The dream was partially recognised but ultimately cut short by the quakes of 2010-11. This year 2019 we want to do more than talk!

We want to "Build for LIFE" - we want to begin a multi-stage redevelopment of our existing buildings. We want to "Build for LIFE" and create a place where people can discover 'Food for Life'.

We worship and serve an amazing God who can do abundantly more than we can imagine. In 2007 plans for an entrance from Fuller Street were investigated. These plans need to be revisited and brought in to line with the current building code and best practice. With the administrative functions of the church being moved to The HUB in 2018 we now have the space to create the entrance and refurbish the foyer, foyer toilets and kitchen—let's call this: **Stage One!**

Stage Two - would involve a refurbishment of the Auditorium area to create a warm, functional space and an upgrade to our electrical infrastructure.

Stage Three - Expansion!! Let us know your dreams!

BUILDING FOR LIFE

Foundation

**WE WILL KEEP IN MIND THE THEME :
“EQUAL SACRIFICE - NOT EQUAL GIFTS.”**

“Jesus sat down opposite the place where the temple offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small coins, worth only a fraction of a penny. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, “I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything - all she had to live on.” Mark 12:41-44

WE WILL SHOW THAT EVERYONE CAN GIVE SOMETHING

- It is a myth that some people can't give anything.
- There are many ways to give if one is willing to give.
- Even those with little cash can make a commitment to give.

WE WILL ASK PEOPLE TO MAKE A SACRIFICE

To become like Christ is to learn to sacrifice. Certainly the Body of Christ is worth sacrificing for.

WE WILL GIVE THANKS FOR WHAT THE LORD IS DOING IN THIS PLACE.



BUILDING FOR LIFE

Foundation

WE WILL NOT PRESSURE ANYONE TO GIVE.

- This program is designed to encourage individuals and families to seek God's will as to how they can contribute.
- 2 Corinthians 9:7 *Each one should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

WE WILL NOT BECOME BOGGED DOWN IN "FUNDRAISING"

- The purpose of any church is the growth of the Kingdom of God, through the growth in the maturity of its members and the evangelisation of its community.
- An advantage in this program is that it enables the church family to keep its focus on the core activities of the church.
- There will be no church cake stalls, garage sales, sales of work etc. This is a giving campaign, designed for a one off cash offering and a 36 month commitment.



Week One - Conception

Nehemiah Chapters 1 & 2

At the beginning of any project is an idea, a spark, a genesis moment that begins it all. For Nehemiah it is the report that “the wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire.”

The Need :

What were the two concerns of Nehemiah and what were the answers received? (1:1-3)

The Prayer :

What three things did Nehemiah do on hearing the bad news about Jerusalem? (1:4-11)

The Answer :

When and how did the answer to Nehemiah's prayer come about? (2:1-8)

The Need Confirmed :

What did Nehemiah do on arriving in Jerusalem? (2:9-15)

Recruitment :

What two different responses did Nehemiah get in his efforts to recruit helpers? (2:17-20)

For Reflection:

When was the last time you saw a deep need that caused you to grieve?

What do you think is the greatest need for the people of Kaiapoi?



Memory Verse

Nehemiah 1:5

“O Lord, God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and obey his commands.”

— Week Two – The Challenge —

Biblical Stewardship

Stewardship is simply how we use what we have. The fundamental principle of Biblical stewardship is: “God owns everything,” we are simply managers or administrators acting on his behalf.

Ownership : Psalm 24:1 says: “The earth is the Lords and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.”

Stewardship is the commitment of one’s self and possessions to God’s service, recognizing that we do not have the right of control over our property or ourselves.

Reflection: Read Psalm 24, what is God saying to you?


Responsibility :

We are called as God’s stewards to manage that which belongs to God. While God has graciously entrusted us with the care, development, and enjoyment of everything he owns. As his stewards, we are responsible to manage his holdings well and according to his desires and purposes.


Reflection: Read: Galatians 6:1-10

In what areas of your life are you proud (in a positive sense –v4)
Can you remember a time when you were blessed by the wider church family? -Give God thanks for this blessing.

Where is God asking you to be a blessing in the life of the church?



“Every faculty you have, your power of thinking or of moving your limbs from moment to moment, is given you by God. If you devoted every moment of your whole life exclusively to His service, you could not give Him anything that was not in a sense His own already.”



– C. S. Lewis, Mere Christianity

Accountability : A steward is one who manages the possessions of another.
We are all stewards of the resources God has entrusted to us.

Reflection: Read the Parable of the Talents in Matthew 25:14-30.
What do you sense God saying to you about your stewardship of all that he has given you?

Reward : As Christians in the 21st Century, we need to embrace a larger biblical view on stewardship that connects everything we do with what God is doing in the world.

Reflection: Read: Colossians 3:23-24



We need to be faithful stewards of all God has given us within the opportunities presented to glorify Him and serve the common good and further his Kingdom.

Memory Verse

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

The background of the bottom section is a photograph of a brick wall. A large, irregular white shape is cut out of the center of the wall, creating a frame for the text.

“Remember this: Whosoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.”

— Week Three - Construction —

Nehemiah Chapters 3 & 4

The Construction : What words would you use to describe Nehemiah's construction plan? (3:1-32)

The Criticism : What criticisms did the outsiders make of the people's efforts? (4:1-5)

The Conspiracy : What did Nehemiah do when he and the people were faced with this conspiracy? (4:6-9)

The Concerns : What messages of concern did Nehemiah have to handle and from whom? (4:10-12)

The Continuation : Describe Nehemiah's tactics for the continuation of the building project. (4:13-23)

For Reflection:

When were you last asked to serve in a way you didn't feel prepared for?

When have you had a dream so big that it could only be accomplished if God performed a miracle? What was it? What happened to it?



Memory Verse

Nehemiah 4:6

“So we rebuilt the wall till all of it reached half its height, for the people worked with all their heart.”

BUILDING FOR LIFE

Giving to God

THIS YEAR WE ARE BELIEVING FOR A MIRACLE.

WE BELIEVE THIS WILL BE DONE

- Jesus said “according to your faith it will be done.” Matt 9:29.

WE WILL INVOLVE EVERYONE IN OUR CHURCH.

- It will take all of us working, praying and committing together.
- The challenge is too great for only a few to carry.

WE WILL BE WILLING TO SACRIFICE

- Nothing is ever achieved without sacrifice.
- Your church needs your commitment.
- It is time to rise to the challenge .

Discerning God's Will

EQUAL SACRIFICE - NOT EQUAL GIFTS.

The most important decision you or your family will make during the Building for LIFE series will be the decision about your own giving commitment. As you begin praying about your commitment keep in mind our theme is:

“Equal Sacrifice - Not Equal gifts.”

Remember your **Building for LIFE** commitment can include both a **cash gift AND a 36 month giving commitment**. Most of us can give far more than we initially think by giving it over a three year period. You will help the church most by making **both** gifts.



BUILDING FOR LIFE

Discerning God's Will

3. Gather the family together to discuss ways to give. Ask your family members to be thinking of ideas in advance. Be sure to involve your children, no matter how young they are. This is a great opportunity to teach giving and faith.

4. At your family meeting read the following Bible promises and instructions and make a list of what you learn.

Proverbs 3:9-10 *“Honour the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim with new wine.”*

Proverbs 11:24-25 *One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes another will himself be refreshed.”*

Luke 6:38 *“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, it will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”*

See also: **1 Corinthians 16:1-2**
 Malachi 3:10

2 Corinthians 8:1-12
Matthew 6:19-20



5. In your family meeting, ask yourselves these questions:

Regarding our cash gift:

- *How much cash could we gather by May 5th 2019?*
- *Is there anything we could sell or convert to cash?*
- *Do we have assets or tangible items we could give?*

Regarding our 36 month commitment:

- *Are there ways we could **decrease our expenses** in order to make a larger commitment?*
- *Are there ways we could **increase our income** in order to make a larger commitment?*

6. Decide as a family the total amount you will give, hold hands and have a prayer of commitment similar to this:

“Father, this is a big step for us. We are asking you to strengthen our faith and help us grow spiritually through giving. We thank you for all you have given us. We know we wouldn’t have anything if it weren’t for you. We want to be cheerful givers. We’re claiming the promises you’ve said in your Word that you’ll take care of our needs if we trust you. Thank you for this opportunity to grow. Thank you for our church. Help us to reach the goal, to complete the extensions. In Jesus name, Amen!”



—Week Four – Completion—

Nehemiah Chapters 5, 6, & 7

Opposition Through Division :

What was Nehemiah's response to the threat of division? (5:1-19)

Opposition Through Doubt :

What was Nehemiah's response to the doubt placed in his mind concerning his calling? (6:1-4)

Opposition Through Deception :

What was Nehemiah's response to the threat of deception? (6:5-9)

Opposition Through Discouragement :

What was Nehemiah's response to the threat of discouragement through fear? (6:10-14)

Completion :

What was the response of the opposition once they saw the wall was completed?

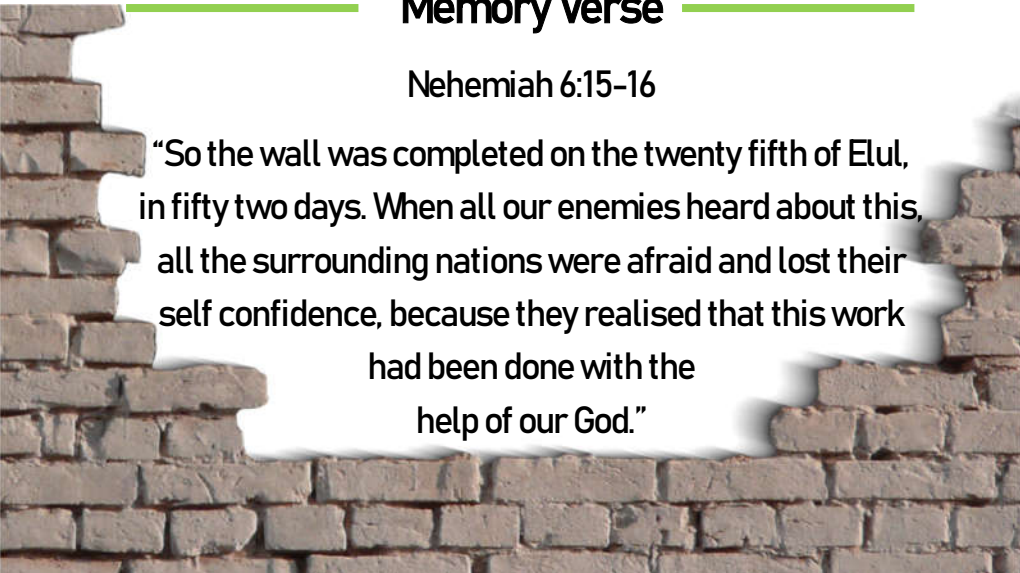
For Reflection:

How do you set your daily priorities for God, family, work, school?

Do you need to re-set those priorities?

Memory Verse

Nehemiah 6:15-16



“So the wall was completed on the twenty fifth of Elul, in fifty two days. When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations were afraid and lost their self confidence, because they realised that this work had been done with the help of our God.”

—Week Five – Consecration—

Nehemiah Chapters 8, 9, & 10

Understanding God's Word : Describe the actions and attitudes of the people as they come before God to understand His Word? (8:1-8)

Responding to God's Word : Explain the people's response to the Word? (8:9-12)

Applying God's Word : How did the people apply the Word of God and what response did their obedience bring in their hearts? (8:13-18)

Understanding God's Working : What words would you use to describe God's working in the past and the response of the people in the past? (9:1-38)

Responding to God's Working : What did the people do in the present in order to respond to God's working in their lives? (10:1-39)

For Reflection:

How important is studying and reading the Bible in your discipleship?


How does the stewardship of your resources reflect your commitment to God? (9:32-39)



Memory Verse

Nehemiah 9:6

“You alone are the Lord. You made the heavens, even the highest heavens, and all their starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship you.”



— Week Six - Consolidation —

Nehemiah Chapters 11, 12, & 13

Occupation of the City :

Why were those who volunteered to dwell in Jerusalem blessed, and honoured by having their names recorded? (11:1-2)

Restoration of the Temple:

What lessons about worship are contained in these verses? (12:27-47)

Separation of the People :

Why do you think God wanted Nehemiah to separate His people from their enemies? (13:1-14)

Consecration of the People :

Why do you think that it was important for the people to keep the Sabbath? (15:15-22)

Sanctification of the People :

Why did Nehemiah set out to cleanse the people of everything that was foreign to God? (13:23-31)

For Reflection:

How are you serving in the Body of Christ at Kaiapoi Baptist Church?

What legacy do you want your life to be remembered for?



Memory Verse

Nehemiah 12:43

“And on that day they offered great sacrifices,
rejoicing because God had given them great joy.
The women and children also rejoiced. The sound
of rejoicing in Jerusalem could
be heard far away.”

— Week Seven – Celebration —

Thanking God for His Goodness

God is Good :

Read: Psalm 136

What verse in the psalm surprises you?

God is Generous:

Read: 1 Chronicles 29:1-20

Look at v 14 and reflect on how David's attitude shows God's generosity.

God Provides :

Read: Genesis 22:1-19

God asks for sacrifice from Abraham and then provides for him in dramatic fashion. When has God provided for you at just the right time?

Celebrating God's Provision :

Read: Deuteronomy 14:22-29

What surprises you about this passage?

Celebrating Together :

Read Nehemiah 8:1-12

How does your family celebrate important occasions?

For Reflection:

When was the last time you celebrated something special?

What would it look like for the church to celebrate what God has done, and is doing through this series: "Build for Life"?



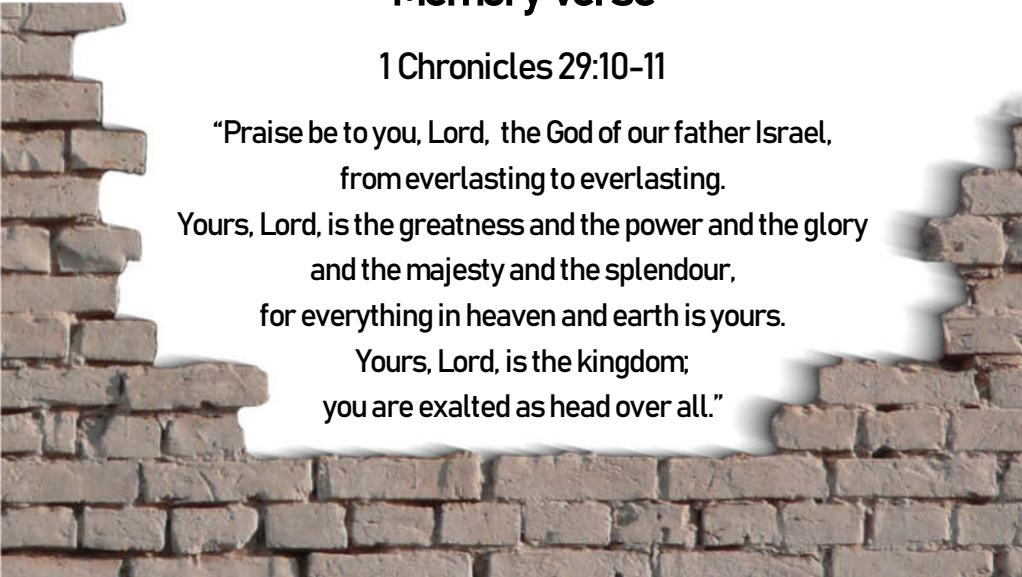
Memory Verse

1 Chronicles 29:10-11

“Praise be to you, Lord, the God of our father Israel,
from everlasting to everlasting.

Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory
and the majesty and the splendour,
for everything in heaven and earth is yours.

Yours, Lord, is the kingdom;
you are exalted as head over all.”



Study materials include content from:

Youth Ministry Network Resources, NZ

The Serendipity Bible

“Time to Build” Stewardship Programme

Scripture references are taken from NIV—1984

