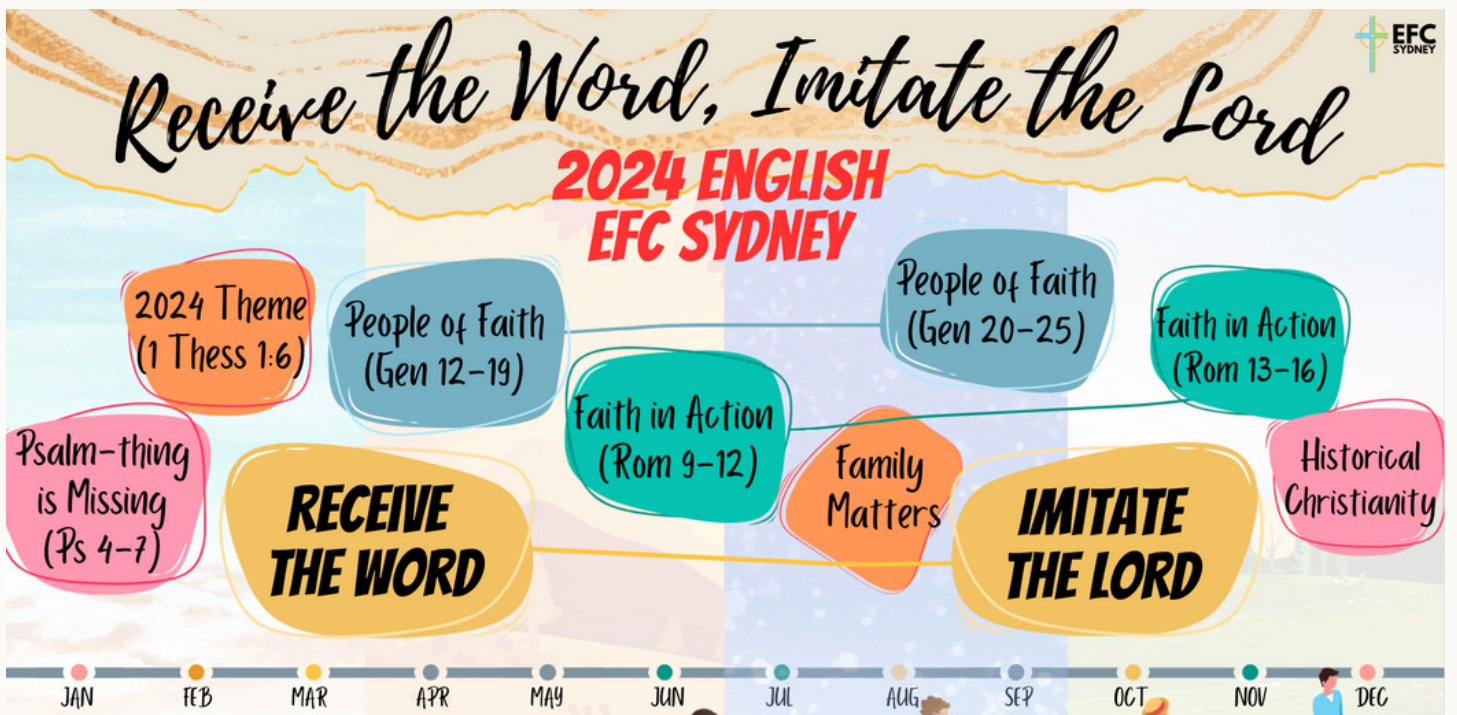


EFC SYDNEY ENGLISH

www.english.efcsydney.org



Preaching Plan

The topics of the year are built around the theme: Receive the Word and Imitate the Lord.

We will see numerous examples through the bible, some better than others, and get a sense for how we ought to live by faith in the 21st Century.

Pick up a magnet at the front desk.

Can you believe it? We are in March! Summer is over. The kids are all at school, even the uni students are back and before you know it, it will be happy new year all over again. But this time next year- we will have changed! We won't be the same people that we are here today.

2024 is the year of equipping and by the end of this year, you will have grown in your faith and godliness. Your spiritual life will be deeper, stronger and more vibrant because this year we will strive to receive the Word and imitate the Lord.

So, join us this year, get excited and be committed to these goals and be consistent with carrying it out. I hope that by the end of the year we can celebrate something more than just a change in the calendar but a change in our convictions, character and competency!

VISION:

Do great things for God that lead millions of souls to Christ.

If you have been coming to church for a while now or have grown up in the church then you will know that sometimes the activity of church loses its meaning. Just another sunday, just another thing to do, just stand up, sit down, stand up and leave. This year we are making a conscious effort to remember and embrace the Vision and Mission of EFC.

God has given to us a high and noble calling. We are not merely plodding through this life but we are striving through with a glorious purpose. God has put us in this particular time and place for a reason and our actions today will echo into eternity. Whether it's smiling at a stranger, lending a helping hand to a neighbour, sharing our stories and experience, or reminding people of God's amazing love, we have the power and privilege to lead others to Christ.

But this starts with us. It starts with our own souls and our own walk with Christ. And so, we must ask, how is my soul? May God empower us with His Spirit!

MISSION:

Be a bible based, Christ centred, disciple making church that is unified in glorifying God.

Now, with every great vision comes an equally great mission. That one thing we must do to create the kind of world that we want to see. A world where our lives for God actually help millions of people to know the saviour Jesus.

For us that one thing is less about what to do and more about who to be. We are the church! And we want to be the best church that we can be because this is how people will come to know who Jesus is. Right? Who else will lead souls to Christ if it is not the church that is loved by Christ! Who else would do great things for God if not the ones who have experienced the greatness of God.

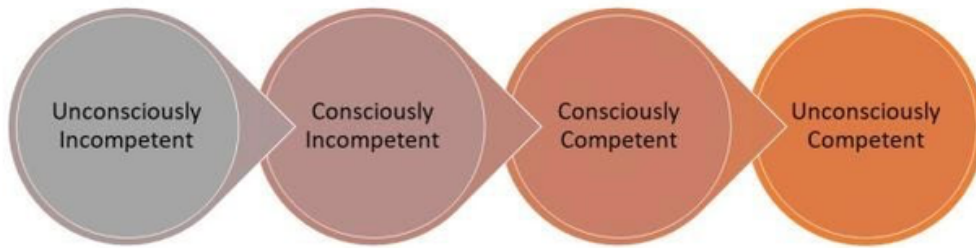
The Bible is our foundation. Christ is our focus. Discipleship is our function. And Ephesians 3:10-11 tells us that it is through the church that everyone will know the wisdom of God. That means it is through you and me that God will change the world.

One soul at a time. From now until eternity.

DGTFG : Do Great Things For God

In this instant and entitled world that we live in, greatness is either something we think happens immediately or something that is owed to us. But this is so far from the truth. Greatness not only takes a whole lot of time but it also takes a whole lot of other stuff too, like effort, determination, support, help and on and on.

Let's be clear, doing great things in general is difficult let alone doing great things for God. This doesn't mean we should give up and lower the bar but it does mean that we need to manage our expectations and be ready for the road ahead.



Part of this journey will be the uncomfortable and confronting process of becoming consciously incompetent. This is the moment when blissful ignorance gives way to painful awareness of our shortcomings. We might as well just admit it now and not waste any time with pretending like we have made it. For the quicker we learn to be humble the quicker we will grow and do greater things.

The reality is that as we strive to do great things for God we will face challenges, make mistakes, get things wrong and feel completely inadequate. It will be painful. It will hurt and we will be tempted to quit, give up, run and hide. But we must not give in to that temptation, rather we must persevere and press on, because practice does make perfect. Like anything else, if we want to do great things for God, then we need to start practicing just that.

WE EFC

At EFC there are 5 ministry areas of focus. These ministries make the acronym WE EFC.

Worship aims to help us see God's love and treasure it.

Equip aims to help us become mature in faith and godliness.

Evangelise aims to help us be mission hearted and lead people to Christ.

Fellowship aims to help us belong like a family and be united in Christ.

Care aims to help us look after those in need and the church.



It is such a blessing to have people like Dan, Eddie, Yvonne, Betty and Bobby to lead the way in these ministry areas and to serve the church in practising these spiritual disciplines.

All ideas, feedback, help and support is welcomed, needed and greatly appreciated.



TEAR UP YOUR BIBLE

You read it correctly. Tear up your bible. Rip it up. Shred it. Throw it away. Honestly, try it. Let me give you permission as your Pastor to do this.

Now as you hold the torn pages in your hand, pay close attention to what you feel in that moment and ask yourself why.

You will learn a lot about what you really think about the Bible. Maybe take out the emotional wheel we looked at weeks ago and identify what are you feeling?

The first time I did this, I know I felt very sad. I felt like I had done something wrong. I had sinned. But why? Why was I feeling so upset about it? And the more I thought about it, the sadder I got because I realised I wasn't sad because I no longer had a bible, or because it was as though I had torn up a precious letter from a loved one. Rather I was sad because I had torn up a perfectly good book. I had destroyed something which was still perfectly good. I had wasted the \$19.99 cost of the book.

And this is when I truly cried. I began to realise how blind I was to my own sin. I was upset for all the wrong reasons. I didn't actually care about the bible. I didn't value it as the priceless message of God to my soul. I didn't see how special it was to have God speak to me. I didn't appreciate having God in my life and took Him for granted.

The bible is not just another book. It is the very words of God.

Just think about that for a moment. God cares to speak to us and he says: I love you.

Come and hear more in March!

RECEIVE THE WORD

Sharing & Testimony
3 MARCH

What is it?
Hebrews 4:12
10 MARCH

Why it matters?
Luke 24:13-27,
Romans 15:4
17 MARCH

How to do it?
2 Timothy 3:16-17
24 MARCH

March Sermons