

EFCOS ENGLISH

EVERY FAMILY CONNECTED IN CHRIST



FEEDING THE FAMILY

“It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’
-Jesus (Mt 4:4)

UNLESS THE LORD BUILDS...

Hiring contractors can be a very tiring. Finding the right one. Negotiating the price. Agreeing on the scope and schedule of work. Checking workmanship, licenses, guarantees etc. etc. It is not easy to find the right person for the job and to make sure the job gets done.

Now, let's say we wanted to hire God for a certain job. After all Psalm 127:1 tells us that unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain. Then how much would God charge to take on our jobs? Do we need to make a large donation to the church? Do we need to pray for a year? Do we need to serve in a ministry?

But God cannot be bought and God is definitely not looking for some other job to do. This is not because he is too high and mighty but rather because he is too committed and too focused on building a better world.

The question is not how do I get God to build what I want? Rather, the question is how do I build what God wants.

Instead of asking what is my dream home, ask what is God's dream home for me? If God is the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change (James 1:17) what kind of home would He want me to have?

A home filled with love and light. A home to take refuge and rest. A home where you can laugh and cry, hope and pray, grow and say good-bye.

The Apostle Paul calls God the Father from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name (Eph 3:15) and so you can be sure that if you are building a family that God wants, then you will not be building in vain.

We all have a part to play. May God help us to build better!

THE ROLE OF CHILDREN

Children only have 1 job - that is to **grow** physically, emotionally and spiritually.

Children are not meant to stay children. They are to mature into adulthood. This doesn't mean we should rush the process for we should allow children to enjoy their childhood and to just be kids.

However, this precious time must not be prolonged into an 'adult-lescence' where grown men and women still think and act as kids and never grow up.

In Genesis 1:28 after God created mankind in His image He says: Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and subdue it.

This is what it means to grow up and become an adult. This is the 1 job that we are to have as adults. We are to bring God's fruit into the world like love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Gal 5:22-23) and we are to multiply God's disciples throughout all nations (Mt 28:18-20) starting with our own families first.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

They say it takes a village to raise a child. And though we may not have a village, we do have a church. And I can't think of a better group to empower, encourage and equip our children of today to become the adults of tomorrow.

Our group has grown to a size where we have now split into a juniors (PreK-2) and seniors group (Yr3-6). We hope to start an infants group next year to bless the toddlers.



This was an unexpectedly large juniors group but a welcomed surprise. The team hopes to train and equip more teachers to help in this ministry. Please pray for the dedicated team including Cora, Peter, Jenny and Natalie. If you would like to help or want more information please contact Ethan or Marianne..

Francis Chan said: 'Our greatest fear should not be of failure but of succeeding at things that don't matter'.

Failing is scary and it does hurt. But what hurts more is when you have succeeded in academics or athletics, or in career or company and then realise you have neglected learning how to love, investing in your family or deepening your friendship with God.

“
**OUR GREATEST FEAR
SHOULD NOT BE OF
FAILURE BUT OF
SUCCEEDING AT THINGS
THAT DON'T MATTER**

If we have a growth mindset for our children, then we must do away with our fear of failure. We have to allow them the grace to make mistakes and to empower them to persevere.

We need to encourage our kids to stretch themselves and get use to growing pains. Growing hurts. It is easy to grow old- just wait. But it is not so easy to grow mature.



“
**BE FRUITFUL
AND MULTIPLY;
FILL THE EARTH
AND SUBDUE IT.
GENESIS 1:28**

COMING UP IN OCTOBER...

There has been so much happening this year in EFCOS English that it is easy to forget that there is also EFCOS Mandarin and that we are part of a bigger church family.

On the 1st of Oct we will meet together as one church and dedicate the time to thanking God for his amazing grace towards us. From finally owning of the building, to planting a new church in St Ives to new pastors, new visitors, new ministries. Big or small, we truly are the blessed ones and there is so much to give thanks for.

This will be a fantastic opportunity to rejoice in what God has been doing amongst us and to get to know other brothers and sisters in Christ! (Especially with lunch provided!)



COMBINED Thanksgiving SERVICE
followed by lunch
1 October 2023 // 10.00-11.30am



In the Beginning
OCTOBER SERMON SERIES

- WRATH**
GENESIS 5:6-8 | 8 OCTOBER
PASTOR BOON
- JUSTICE**
GENESIS 6:9 - 8:22 | 15 OCTOBER
PASTOR BOON
- THE COVENANT**
GENESIS 9:1-29 | 22 OCTOBER
PASTOR BOON
- THE NATIONS**
GENESIS 10:1-32 | 29 OCTOBER
FAMILY SERVICE

We will then continue on in our journey through the book of Genesis looking at the beginnings of key ideas in the bible. Not only are some of these sections covering large parts, even multiple chapters, but these are also some of the more obscure passages in the bible. It would be good to read these sections beforehand and consider what God may be saying to you through it. Also let me know what questions come up as you go through it. For example Genesis 5:15-17 says:

“

**15 WHEN MAHALALEL HAD LIVED 65 YEARS,
HE BECAME THE FATHER OF JARED.**

**16 AFTER HE BECAME THE FATHER OF JARED,
MAHALALEL LIVED 830 YEARS AND HAD OTHER SONS AND DAUGHTERS.**

**17 ALTOGETHER, MAHALALEL LIVED A TOTAL OF 895 YEARS,
AND THEN HE DIED.**

GENESIS 5:15-17

(Pray for the person doing the bible reading on that day.)

UPDATES & REMINDERS



Family Services have been so much fun this year. Please continue to invite young and old to join in and catch a glimpse of our great big God! We are trying to make it an inspiring, interactive and intergenerational time together.

There are some really exciting things happening in the Youth ministry. In a couple days, we will have 15 Youth and 4 leaders going to KYCK2023. This is a camp for Youth all over Sydney. We have hired 2 houses and are really excited to see how God will deepen our relationships. This will be the first time that Power Youth and Victory Youth will spend quality time together.

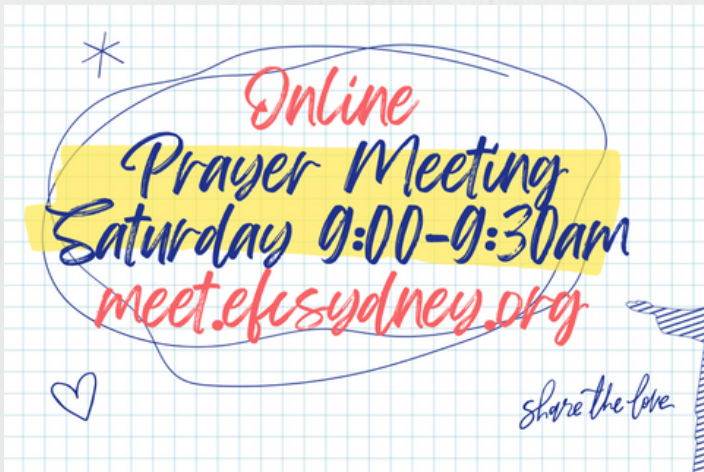
The other exciting development has been with our Youth Band. Along the lines of growing and maturing, the band has provided an opportunity for the Youth to learn how to serve God, work together as a team, and take responsibility.



Since God is the one who is building our world, our church, our lives, prayer is crucial to the asking and understanding of God's heart and work.

We would love to see everyone join in and be blessed as we meet together with God in prayer.

If you would like prayer or feel burdened to pray for someone or something, please send requests to prayer.efcsydney.org



Thank you to all those who have helped with preparing and providing morning tea.

At the next FAMILY SERVICE in October 29, we would like to ask everyone to bring a 'finger food' dish to share.

We would love to continue the joy of seeing families together especially around food!

Please continue to love one another by practising good hygiene, sharing the food but not the germs and keeping the place neat and tidy.

