

EXCELLENT INFLUENCE

Influence.

01
NOVEMBER
2020

ED. LXXXIX. 11. 2020

Bethany International Church
THE HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL NATIONS

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Ps Suzana Tahir

Teaching Pastor

Ps Daniel Hardjosuwito

Mission & Evangelism Pastor

Ps Gideon Gunawan

Office Manager

Ps Suzana Tahir

CONTACT US



Bethany International Church



office@bethanymelb.org.au



[@bicmelbourne](https://www.instagram.com/bicmelbourne)



www.bethanymelb.org.au



+61396999077

Foreword

It's been a tough period for some, if not all of us. A 15-week lockdown has undoubtedly impacted our hearts and minds, even maybe our souls. We do not want to deny that. When I was thinking about this month's topic (excellent influence), it seems extremely hard for us to be an excellent influence for others. Some of us are drowning. We are struggling to cope with our baggage, let alone being an excellent influence for others.

Nevertheless, I was reminded of Jesus' prayer to Simon Peter, who responded with boasting about his faithfulness (Luke 22:31-32). Still in the same chapter, only a few verses away, we know that he denied Jesus three times. We could not imagine the pain and the hardship he went through. But God kept His promise, He took hold of his faith. The rest is history, we all know that Peter became one of the most influential figures in early church history.

Luke 22:31-32

"Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."

What's interesting in Jesus' prayer is not only that He gives assurance of our faith, but He also enables us to strengthen our brothers. So dear brothers and sisters, God is able to use us to be an excellent influence, even through our failures. We will not become like Peter, but we can learn that it is through our weaknesses that God's power is made perfect. And when we are restored by His Spirit, let us encourage our brothers, serve one another, be the salt and the light, and live out our identity in Christ.

In this November edition, we will cover a range of different topics during the five weeks span. We will discuss how students should face the exam period, how lockdown has changed (some of) us, and how Christ enables us to have an excellent influence on our surroundings. And finally, we will close our November edition with hopeful anticipation towards the celebration of the birth of our Saviour, Christ Jesus.

Our hope is that you may be encouraged during this tough period, especially if you are a student or if you are experiencing hardship. We want to encourage you to consider what Christ has done for you, and believe His grace and power that is available to us as His children.

HELLO *new comers!*

Welcome to Bethany International Church Melbourne.
So glad that you are here with us. We want to help make your
first experience at BIC Melbourne a great one!



GET CONNECTED

Christian journey shouldn't be alone because it is a community project. Join our Community of Love (COOL) every Friday 7PM!

LET US CONTACT YOU



Lastly, please enjoy a cup of coffee on us! 



COOL LIST



MAIN

| | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Canaan | Kezia, Freddie |
| Ephratah | Steven, Henry |
| Berea - Bethesda | Romy |
| Bethlehem | Felix, Fransisca |
| Jordan | Sony, Wilfred |
| Horeb | Ferry, Febria |
| Bethany | Paulus, Erina |
| Bethel | Christy, Elvina |
| Cana | Bobby |
| Philadelphia - Pniel | Dwi, Vero |
| Moriah | Elve, Calista |
| Ephraim | Kevin L, Sonia |
| Ekklesia | Edo, Ica |
| Emmaus | Fabian, Priska |
| Galilee | Kevin Y, Corine |
| Gennesaret | Reinetta, Albert |
| Gilgal - Carmel | Erika, Mike |
| Hebron - Philippi | Yoseph, Rian |
| Zion | Monica, Raymond |
| Eden | Jennifer |

FAMILY

| | |
|------------|-----------------|
| Antioch | Andy, Iwan |
| Tiberias | Andre, Albert |
| Gethsemane | Michael, Rudy |
| Jerusalem | Hestu |
| Mt Hermon | Lily, Unggul |
| Phillipi | Hariyanto, Ivan |
| Shekinah | Alice |
| Tabernacle | Sandi |
| Westal | Michael |

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| | |
|-----------|------------------|
| Macedonia | Eric, Alicia |
| Shiloh | Daniel, Clarissa |

NEXT GEN

| | |
|----------|-------------------|
| Judea | Valentina, Sylvio |
| Judah | Aldo, Kezia M. |
| Israel | Catherine, Jerry |
| Jeremiah | Sinta, Kevin W. |
| Heaven | Pauline |



Preparing our hearts and minds for exam

BY KEZIA JOCELYN

For a lot of us who are students, the examination season is either here or coming up soon. It all can sometimes feel a little bit too overwhelming when we don't even have time to breathe in between assignments submissions and exams. And it is definitely hard to set our minds and especially our hearts to be confident and ready to tackle this mentally draining season. Not to mention that this year we don't really have the physical access to proficient study environments like libraries or study groups. It is what it is, the situations we have to face is not quite ideal, but that's all the more reasons why we have to make sure that we don't just prepare our minds by studying hard. Preparing our hearts to face those exams is now more than ever an even greater importance.

Most students perceive that they study to get the best score possible and it is true that grades are the "currency" of educational institutions. But if we're honest with ourselves, especially for us who at a certain point in our educational journey had gone through some kind of employment, grades don't really bring us far apart from it being starting-line-useful in very limited ways. So why is this? Why do we put so much weight on something

that is time and time again proven to not be the sufficient thing which leads us to fulfillment? We all know that we do need to put in the work to achieve the goals we've set, but we need to ask ourselves, as Christians, what good does that goal have in our walk with God? 1 Corinthians 10:31 says, "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." This serves as a reminder that our actions, very well including our studies, should all be for the praise and honour of God.

The pursuit of grades as an ultimate end to our studies contradicts its sole godly purpose which is to learn and better understand God's creation in all its glory. As children of God, we ought to see pursuing knowledge as a privilege that God has given to us which we have to be thankful and thus responsible for. If this is being set out of its proportion, it will some way or another create chaos. In the case of studying for an exam, we all know it creates stress, anxiety, unnecessary fear of the things we can't even control. Therefore, it's important to get our hearts right in front of God in this exam season. It's important to have that higher-level understanding of why we study and pursue grades so that our efforts are not

being drowned by fear of failure or driven by the prideful need to prove something to someone. Then studying can be a beautiful and fruitful work of the mind as the result of surrender and awe of the heart.

A lot of the times we already know these truths but might still find it hard to involve God in the time that we took to prepare for our exams. Before we know it, we usually are already so deep into our studies and feel like there's no possible time to spare to do anything else. Therefore, starting our study time with prayer and meditation in His word is crucial in establishing a sound mind and heart to start the study with. It does require discipline to take on this habit, as with every other positive habit. That same discipline needs to also be applied physically through what we consume, through our sleep time, and through sufficient exercise. When we think about studying, we often think it's only the mind which is at work, but the truth is all of our body parts need to function well in order to support the workings of our minds. These are the peripheral things that would give the extra support needed by the essential things which are our hearts and minds.

Therefore, entering this exam season, let us bow our heads before God, ask for a new heart that surrenders all of our efforts in preparing our minds and body to give our best in the exam period. Let us discipline ourselves as a form of gratitude towards God that He had given us this privilege in our lives to be able to study and grasp more of His glory through the works of His creation.

Proverbs 3:5-6, 13-14

*5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
6 in all your ways submit to him,
and he will make your paths straight.*

*13 Blessed are those who find wisdom,
those who gain understanding,
14 for she is more profitable than silver
and yields better returns than gold.*



WEEKLY DEVOTION

01 NOVEMBER

Yeremia 22 - 24

Ayat Renungan:
Yeremia 23 : 24

“Sekiranya ada seseorang menyembunyikan diri dalam tempat persembunyian, masakan Aku tidak melihat dia? demikianlah firman TUHAN. Tidakkah Aku memenuhi langit dan bumi? demikianlah firman TUHAN.”

02 NOVEMBER

Yeremia 25 - 27

Ayat Renungan:
Yeremia 27 : 5

“Akulah yang menjadikan menjadikan bumi, manusia dan hewan yang ada di atas muka bumi dengan kekuatan-Ku yang besar dan dengan lengan-Ku yang terentang, dan Aku memberikannya kepada orang yang benar di mata-Ku.”

03 NOVEMBER

Yeremia 28 - 30

Ayat Renungan:
Yeremia 29 : 11

“Sebab Aku ini mengetahui rancangan-rancangan apa yang ada pada-Ku mengenai kamu, demikianlah firman TUHAN, yaitu rancangan damai sejahtera dan bukan rancangan kecelakaan, untuk memberikan kepadamu hari depan yang penuh harapan.”

04 NOVEMBER

Yeremia 31 - 3

Ayat Renungan:
Yeremia 32 : 19

“besar dalam rancangan-Mu dan agung dalam perbuatan-Mu; mata-Mu terbuka terhadap segala tingkah langkah anak-anak manusia dengan mengganjar setiap orang sesuai dengan tingkah langkahnya dan sesuai dengan buah perbuatannya;”

05 NOVEMBER

Yeremia 37 - 39

Ayat Renungan:
1 Yohanes 2 : 4

“Usahakanlah kesejahteraan kota ke mana kamu Aku buang, dan berdoalah untuk kota itu kepada TUHAN, sebab kesejahteraannya adalah kesejahteraanmu.”

06 NOVEMBER

Yeremia 40 - 42

Ayat Renungan:
1 Yohanes 2 : 6

“Barangsiapa mengatakan, bahwa ia ada di dalam Dia, ia wajib hidup sama seperti Kristus telah hidup.”

07 NOVEMBER

Yeremia 43 - 45

Ayat Renungan:
1 Yohanes 4 : 20

“Jikalau seorang berkata: “Aku mengasihi Allah,” dan ia membenci saudaranya, maka ia adalah pendusta, karena barangsiapa tidak mengasihi saudaranya yang dilihatnya, tidak mungkin mengasihi Allah, yang tidak dilihatnya.”

“your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path”

psalm 119:105

Finding rest during exam period

BY VALERIE SETIONO

It's always a tough time when we're approaching the end of the semester towards the exam period. When I was doing my bachelor's degree, exam period was the most stressful time for me. I would stay for hours in the library, reading, reviewing and taking notes all day hoping I know enough and remember everything when I'm sitting on the actual exam. On the day, I would be so nervous and many times, I blanked out and frustrated myself. I've prepared a lot and for a long time, but I'll still be scared and as long as I remembered, I've never come to the exam venue feeling confident. I doubted myself a lot, I worried about my grades, and I was afraid of failing. Sounds relatable?

Looking back, I realised how unnecessary it was to feel that way. Yes, it is important to do well in your exams and to do well in your studies, but it is not everything. Back then, it was my everything. I was never pressured to do well by anyone, all the pressures and expectations come from myself. It's my own thoughts that put me under pressure, and I know now that is unhealthy. There are several things that I wish I knew back then that might help me to stop having that pressuring thoughts and find rest in God instead.

Lean on God

First, instead of relying on our negative thoughts and inability, **lean on God**. *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding,"* (Proverbs 3:5). We should know that our future is safe and secure. However, our definition or the world's definition of "safe and secure" might not be the same as how God defines it. Our definition might be outstanding grades or working a high salary job, but "safe and secure" in God's eyes does not necessarily mean this. His plan for us might not need to include us having good grades. Know that God doesn't need top-of-the-class results from us. Instead, He wants our trust, faith and love. But at the same time, this is not an excuse for us to stop working hard and putting in the best effort we can in everything we do. God has called us to be students in this season, and that means we ought to work with excellence unto His glory. So, study and work in a way that God would approve.

Study with God

As we already know, God is not a faraway

being that we cannot reach. He is our Father and we are His children. And just like our worldly father, He wants to help us in our journey as a student. God cares more about our studies than we do. He is an all-knowing God that there's nothing that He cannot solve, even the hardest question in the exam. Again, this is not about praying for the magical ability to solve any math questions, we still need to work. But we can pray before starting our day, ask God to be with us during our study time and so that we can be productive. God listens to our prayer and He wants to help us in our day-to-day studies, even if it sounds so trivial! And we need to put in our part, to put our best effort in everything we do for His glory.

Also, we should remember why we study. "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving." (Colossians 3:23-24)

As we have been blessed with the opportunity to receive an education, we should use this chance to gain more knowledge and use that to serve God in the future. We please God and glorify Him by remaining faithful and making the best out of what He has given to



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and
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has given
to us.**

us. Ultimately, our hearts matter the most to Him.

Grades don't define you

Even though I know this fact in the back of my mind, it's so easy to bury that thought and focus on our self-righteousness instead. Questions like, "If I don't do well on this exam, what would I be in the future?", or "what would others think of me?" often clouds our judgment of who we actually are. Grades would never define us. God alone should define us. And when we believe and hold on to God's purpose for our lives, we would know that that is what's best for us. It's liberating to know that **whatever we're facing at this moment will pass**. "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens" (Ecclesiastes 3:1). When we are secure in God and we submit our lives to Him, bad situations and moments won't stop us to see that He is good and that we are under the control of His loving and sovereign will. Isn't it amazing to know that the God who created the universe cares for us and directs our paths?

Find rest in Him

Finally, get some sleep. We are all human and we need rest. Don't forget to step away from books occasionally, sleep early and spend some quiet time with God. This will help us to study better and to stay close to our Father. Besides, taking a break is a

way of telling God that we let Him take the ultimate control. After all the hard studying that we do, we need to surrender the results to God and let ourselves rest. **He watches over us and longs to give us peace**. Even in the tough exam period, God is with us, and He will never leave us nor forsake us.

He watches over us and longs to give us peace

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28)

Having a bad grade doesn't mean we have a bad life. When God created man, He said, "it was very good". If God created us to be good, according to His own image, nothing in this world could make our life bad. No matter what our grades are, God loves us all the same.

So always do the best, find rest and remember that **God is rooting for you too!**





MINISTRY LIST

VOCAL



Jessica Sutiono

MUSICIAN



Raynaldo Ali

MULTIMEDIA



Budi Sendjaja

LIGHTING



Budi Sendjaja

SOUND



Steven Santika

USHER



Elbert Pranoto

TRANSLATOR



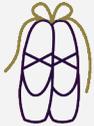
Elbert Pranoto

CARING



Felix Hariyadi

DANCER



Priska Sunaryo

DRAMA



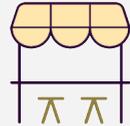
Jennifer Chandra

SUNDAY SCHOOL



Reinetta Tanujaya

HOSPITALITY



Tasmin Ifah

INTERCESSOR



Monica Haryanto

MISSION



Felix Chietra

MEDIA ART



Sonia Pranatha

COMMUNITY KITCHEN



Yolanda Tjong

PODCAST



Ravello Satria

YOUTH



Rio Susanto

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms"

**We invite you to join our
online service every Sunday
from 8.30 am onwards**

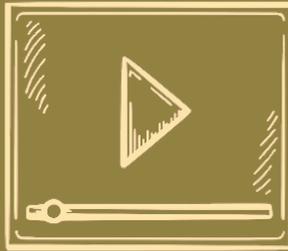
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Youtube:

Bethany International Church Melbourne



**Let's celebrate the Lord's Day
together!**