



St James Connect

September 2019 | St James Church | www.stjames.org.za | info@stjames.org.za | 021 671 7070 | 114 Third Avenue, Kenilworth



Ministry in Focus: Mamas & Munchkins

You may have heard this name floating around during the news but don't quite know who we are, or why we care about what we do. This is a relatively 'young' ministry - 'founded' in November 2011 by a group of moms with babies - who were feeling unsure of how to navigate this new life as Christian parents, and who quickly discovered that there were others who felt the same!

M&M's has two distinct regular meeting options: a munchkin-friendly **Tuesday morning growth group** for young mums & a **monthly Saturday meet-up** space for parents (despite what the name suggests - dads and grandparents are also welcome!) which aims to serve young families, not only at St James, but in the greater community. At our Saturday meetups, parents are welcome to come along with their little one(s), invite a friend and listen to a great speaker or chat through a useful and engaging topic (such as nutrition, emotional development, etc) over a hot cup of coffee or tea!

As friendships grow, the Gospel is lovingly shared.

Here are a few ways you can support this valuable ministry:

- If you are a young mum on maternity leave, a stay-at-home mum, working from home, or a gran that's looking after grandchildren, please feel welcome to join our regular Tuesday morning growth group.
- We would love for older women in our church to please consider how they could alongside our young mums to support, mentor and encourage them in this stage of life.
- If you are a young family (generally with kids aged 6 and under), then please join us at our next Saturday morning meet-up on 7 September.
- Pray for the leaders and team who organise these mornings to be gospel-focussed, intentional and welcoming, and;
- Pray that the friendships formed at these meetings are authentic and loving, and that ultimately, Jesus is shared with our neighbours and community.

The M&Ms growth group meets in Room 1 of the Children's Centre every Tuesday morning [school terms] from 10h30 - 12h00. Babies and pre-schoolers are welcome & the Thrive team are on hand to help supervise. M&M's Saturday meet-ups are held on the first Saturday of every month at 10am in the Children's Centre, between February and November. You can search for our Facebook group, "Mamas and Munchkins" for event details or contact the church office at info@stjames.org.za.

We'd love to have you join us!

perspective

Our Father by Mervyn Eloff

"Pray then like this: 'Our Father in heaven..." (Matthew 6:9)

The words quoted above introduce the most famous of all Christian prayers, the prayer that Jesus taught His disciples as a model prayer, a prayer not simply to be prayed but also to be used as a guideline to shape our prayers.

As with all Scripture, the Lord's Prayer, as it has come to be known, should be read in context and that context is very striking indeed. Jesus begins His teaching about prayer by telling His disciples how not to pray. First, we should avoid the hypocrisy that sees prayer more as a display of our own piety than a humble conversation with God. We must never pray in order to be seen and praised by others! (Matthew 6:5-6). Second, we should avoid the superstition that imagines that we can somehow control or manipulate God through our words or techniques. To pray in that way is to be no better than a pagan (Matthew 6:7-8). Third, we should avoid a mystical view of prayer in which prayer becomes listening to God rather than speaking to God. God speaks to us not in our prayer but by His Word the Bible. It is of course good to listen to the Word with a humble, receptive heart and to turn God's Word in the Bible into prayer. As with the Lord's Prayer, our prayers should be shaped by all that the Bible says. But we should never confuse our speaking to God (prayer) with listening to God (reading the Bible).

How then should we pray? And it is here that the opening words of the Lord's prayer are so revolutionary and encouraging. Firstly, we should pray in the full confidence that if we have put our trust in Jesus Christ, God is indeed not simply a Father, but our Father! In Christ we are kept in a true and deep relationship with God. Hostilities and estrangement caused by our sin are now at an end since Christ has made peace between us and God (Ephesians 2:11-18). Thus, whenever we pray, we come to God as our Father knowing that, because of Jesus, He always hears us and, in Christ, He will grant everything good that is in accordance with His will (1 John 5:14-15). Secondly, we should pray in the full confidence that the God to whom we pray is our Father in Heaven. The phrase 'in Heaven' reminds us of the wisdom, sovereignty and power of God. It reminds us that God knows what is best for us since He created us. It reminds us that God knows what is best for us since He knows all things, including the future. More than that it reminds us that God not only knows all things, but that He controls all things, even the smallest details of our lives. Thus, as our Father in heaven, God works for our eternal good in all things, even in the midst of human evil and the trials of a fallen world (Romans 8:26-30).

By teaching us that our Heavenly Father is both able and willing to answer our prayers, the Lord's Prayer teaches us how to pray. But more than that, it teaches us that we can and must pray! So often the evil one reminds us of our sins and failures and our hearts condemn us. But God in Christ is greater than our hearts! (1 John 3:20). We need to remember that because Jesus has paid the full price for our sins and now intercedes for us at the Father's right hand, we may indeed approach God's throne of grace with confidence to find mercy and help in our time of need (Hebrews 4:14-16). No matter how often or how much we have failed or fallen, we should always keep coming back to our Heavenly Father in prayer. This is not to be a hypocrite, but to believe the gospel. Satan the accuser wants to keep us away from God. Jesus our Lord and Saviour wants to lead us back to God our Father. Like the prodigal son, we need to remember that the best place to be is in our Father's house, not as unworthy servants, but as blood-bought children. Thanks be to God for the indescribable gift of His Son and the gift of prayer.





For the men - have you signed up for this year's Cape Town Men's Convention, yet?

It will be held on Saturday 14th of September and the title for this year's conference is (aptly) **'The Root of All Evil? Lessons from Luke'** - the speaker is Luke Tattersall.

The venue is right here at St James and the cost is R170 (inclusive of tea & lunch) Registration closes on 8 September.

Visit www.ctmc.org.za for info & registration.

For the women, 'Come Away' will be holding their **'Village by Village' Women in Ministry Conference** on Saturday 31st August from 9am - 1.30pm at St Stephen's Church in Claremont.

The cost is R150 (inclusive of lunch) but free to all paid-up Come Away members, and welcomes all Christian women, whether you are currently involved in women's ministry at your local church *or not*, to join the conversation.

Tickets available via Quicket and you can find out more about this event on their website: www.comeaway.co.za



Super Youth Camp is coming up from Friday 27 - Sunday 29 September at the Mizpah campsite in Grabouw. This is for all high school students in grades 8-12.

Gareth Heüer will be speaking from Romans about renewing our minds - he's called it, 'Mind, the gap'! There are three cost options for families to pay according to affordability: R400, R500 or R600.

To help raise funds in support of those in need of financial assistance, the youth will be holding a boerewors roll fundraising sale after the 10am service on Sunday 8th September - what a worthy (and delicious) cause to support! So bring some cash and come hungry!

Arise will be holding their annual **Adoption Conference** at Commonground Church, Rondebosch from 8.30am - 4.30pm on Saturday 7th September.

This one-day conference is designed for all current and prospective adoptive parents wanting to learn more about the core issues of adoption, as well as for extended families and friends of adoptive families.

The cost is R400 p/p (inclusive of lunch) and childcare is available at an additional fee of R50 (no lunch).

Info at www.arisefamily.org. Tickets available via Quicket.



calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>Services : 8am & 10am (Communion)</p> <p>Children's Church: 10 - 11:15am</p> <p>Junior Youth: 10 - 11:15am</p> <p>Prayer Meeting: 5:45pm - 6:15pm</p> <p>Sunday Service: 6:30pm</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Sign Language Classes: 5pm</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Prayer Meeting: 7 - 7:30am</p> <p>Ladies' Coffee Morning: 10 - 11:30am</p> <p>M&M's Growth Group: 10 - 11:30am</p> <p>Music Practice: 6:30 - 8:30pm</p> <p>First 100 Days - Discovering Christianity (week 5): 7:30 - 8:30pm</p> <p>Griefshare: 7:30pm</p> <p>JY Leaders Meet / Study: 7:30pm</p>	<p>4</p> <p>REACH SA Synod</p> <p>Wed Morning Study: 9:30 - 10:30am</p> <p>Kids Ministry Leaders Meet: 6:30pm</p> <p>SY Leaders Meet / Study: 7:30pm</p> <p>Midweek Studies / Growth Groups: 7:30pm</p>	<p>5</p> <p>REACH SA Synod</p> <p>Young Adults: 6pm</p> <p>Divorce Care & DC4K: 6:15 - 8:45pm</p> <p>Explore Course: 7:30pm</p>	<p>6</p> <p>REACH SA Synod</p> <p>Men's Partnership B-fast: 6 - 7:30am</p> <p>Kids Clubs: 6 - 7:30pm</p> <p>HUB & Youth: 6 - 9pm</p>	<p>7</p> <p>M&M's Meet-up 10 - 11:30am for 'Music Fun'</p> <p>Arise Adoption Conference 8:30am - 4:30pm</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Services: 8am, 10am & 6:30pm</p> <p>Hiking: 1pm</p> <p>Children's Church: 10 - 11:15am</p> <p>Junior Youth: 10 - 11:15am</p> <p>Youth Boerie Sale (11:15am)</p> <p>Prayer Meeting: 5:45-6:15pm</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Sign Language Classes: 5pm</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Prayer Meeting: 7 - 7:30am</p> <p>Ladies' Coffee Morning: 10 - 11:30am</p> <p>M&M's Growth Group: 10 - 11:30am</p> <p>Music Practice: 6:30pm-8:30pm</p> <p>Griefshare: 7:30pm</p> <p>JY Leaders Meet / Study: 7:30pm</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Wed Morning Study: 9:30 - 10:30am</p> <p>Kids Ministry Leaders Meet: 6:30pm</p> <p>SY Leaders Meet / Study: 7:30pm</p> <p>Midweek Studies / Growth Groups: 7:30pm</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Young Adults: 6pm</p> <p>Divorce Care & DC4K: 6:15 - 8:45pm</p> <p>Explore Course: 7:30pm</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Men's Partnership B-fast: 6 - 7:30am</p> <p>Kids Clubs: 6 - 7:30pm</p> <p>HUB & Youth: 6 - 9pm</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Cape Town Men's Convention (The Root of All Evil? Lessons from Luke): 9am</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Services: 8am (Communion) & 6:30pm (Communion) & 10am (Baptisms)</p> <p>Children's Church: 10-11:15am</p> <p>Junior Youth: 10 - 11:15am</p> <p>Prayer Meeting: 5:45-6:15pm</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Sign Language Classes: 5pm</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Prayer Meeting: 7 - 7:30am</p> <p>Ladies' Coffee Morning: 10 - 11:30am</p> <p>M&M's Growth Group: 10 - 11:30am</p> <p>Music Practice: 6:30pm-8:30pm</p> <p>Griefshare: 7:30pm</p> <p>JY Leaders Meet / Study: 7:30pm</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Wed Morning Study: 9:30 - 10:30am</p> <p>SY Leaders Meet / Study: 7:30pm</p> <p>Midweek Studies / Growth Groups: 7:30pm</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Young Adults: 6pm</p> <p>Divorce Care & DC4K: 6:15 - 8:45pm</p> <p>Explore Course: 7:30pm</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Men's Partnership B-fast: 6 - 7:30am</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Challengers: 2 - 5pm</p>
<p>22</p> <p>Services: 8am, 10am (All Age - First Steps will still be open for little ones up to 18months) & 6:30pm</p> <p>Prayer Meeting: 5:45-6:15pm</p>	<p>23</p> <p>School Holidays</p>	<p>24</p> <p>PUBLIC HOLIDAY - Heritage Day</p>	<p>25</p> <p>School Holidays</p>	<p>26</p> <p>School Holidays</p> <p>Young Adults: 6pm</p> <p>Divorce Care & DC4K: 6:15pm - 8:45pm</p>	<p>27</p> <p>School Holidays</p> <p>SUPER YOUTH CAMP</p>	<p>28</p> <p>SUPER YOUTH CAMP</p>
<p>29</p> <p>Services: 8am, 10am & 6:30pm</p> <p>Children's Church: 10-11:15am</p> <p>SUPER YOUTH CAMP</p> <p>Missions Lunch: 12:30pm</p> <p>Prayer Meeting: 5:45-6:15pm</p>	<p>30</p> <p>School Holidays</p>					