

# CORNERSTONE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

## Life Group Study Guide

### Gospel-Shaped Eyes – A Messy Christianity

This Sunday we looked at how the fallen, sinful state of the world we live in has taken a toll on our community, and how we, as a local church, respond to this “Messiness”. We discussed how our gospel-shaped eyes help us realistically see problems in our community in light of God’s powerful, life-changing grace, and also to see how we as individuals are called to be part of the solution.

As Christians, we do not shy away from those who are lost, hurting, and in [so many different forms of] need. In fact, our love compels us to welcome them, and get involved in their lives to bring hope and healing through the grace and kindness of our God. As a result, we live a “messy” Christianity – walking the journey of healing and salvation with those around us - through the ups, downs, challenges, and triumphs to see the full freedom and restoration realised in the lives of those around us.

#### Starting Questions:

- How would you describe the spiritual and emotional health of our community?
- When we look at the various problems that those around us face, or that the wider society face, do they seem overwhelming, or do we genuinely see the potential solution through God’s grace? Why?

#### Read Titus 3:3-7 and 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

- Can you think of examples of how God turned around situations that seemed hopeless, or people that you know who seemed beyond help?
- How did that transformation take place? (Instant / miraculously? Over a period of time? What happened?)

We spoke about how Gospel-Shaped Eyes see our part in bringing God’s solution to the problems that those around us face.

Offering God what is in our hands – our time, talents, abilities, money, resources to use for His purpose.

- How can God use what you have to offer? How might he “supercharge it” with His Spirit to bring a positive change?
- What does “being Jesus with skin on” mean to you?
- How can being present be a powerful ministry to those around us? What does this look like?
- When you were early in your faith, who came along side you and was willing to walk the journey with you? How did that help?

The Bible demonstrates being moved with compassion, led by the Spirit, and informed by wisdom.

- Why are all three of these important? Do you have examples of these being well balanced in ministry? Do you have examples of these being out of balance, and the results?

# GOSPEL-SHAPED EYES

## A MESSY CHRISTIANITY

### LIFE IS MESSY

**stuff** life & style

well & good teach me motivate me inspire me

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## Kiwis among the worst for rates of depression

Kate Newton • 05:00, Jul 27 2011

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Child poverty and our national alcohol addiction may be feeding into New Zealand's internationally high rates of depression, uncovered in an international study.

Research published in the international journal BMC Medicine yesterday shows that of 18 countries, New Zealand consistently ranked in the top 25 per cent on nearly every measure of depression.

Among the 10 high-income countries included, New Zealanders ranked second for people experiencing a major depressive episode in the 12 months before the survey and fourth for people having suffered a depressive episode in their lifetime.

The results were based on data collected from 89,000 people around the world.

Overall, the study showed 15 per cent of people in high-income countries suffered depression at some point in their life, compared with 11 per cent

**stuff** national

health euthanasia debate

[Real estate agency Harcourts staff filmed in blackface at...](#)
[Southland's aim of high value oats industry gathers steam](#)
[Kiwi woman drank her own urine as she prepared for death in...](#)
[Driver, 15, and 12-year-old passenger killed in crash near...](#)

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## One in 10 Kiwis now alcoholic

KIRSTY JOHNSTON • 05:00, Oct 27 2013

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One in 10 New Zealanders could now be considered "alcoholic" according to new diagnostic criteria – but the majority of those with a drinking problem are unlikely to recognise it because the issue is so common.

The new estimate of 400,000 "alcoholics" in New Zealand – around 10 per cent of our 4.4 million population – was tallied up by Professor Doug Sellman from the National Addiction Centre at the University of Otago.


It is significantly higher than the Ministry of Health's 2006 estimate which says 3 to 6 per cent of the population has an alcohol issue.

Sellman's figures are based on the new diagnostic criteria for "alcohol use disorder" recently published in the fifth edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM) of the American Psychiatric Association.

### Rising depression and anxiety among Kiwi youths

MEGAN GATTEY  
Last updated 12:48, November 18 2017

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# LIFE IS MESSY

**NZ's child poverty highlighted in Amne**

23/02/2017 | Dan Satherley

Watch: 'Mad Mike' blitzes field in season-opener

**MOST POPULAR** Oil workers can't get mortgages thanks to ban - National

**MOST POPULAR** Emma Clarke's last ever Game of Thrones scene: "I told her no"

**MOST POPULAR** Simon Bridges: Abortion should be rare, safe and legal

New Zealand's persistent high rate of child poverty has been highlighted in Amnesty International's latest look at the state of human rights around the world.

"Nearly one in three New Zealand children live below the poverty line," the group's [2016/2017 report](#) reads.

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"We have, every year in New Zealand, about 40,000 children... admitted to hospital for diseases that are potentially preventable by solving poverty, housing and great access to healthcare. There's a lot we could do."

# LIFE IS MESSY

**Why New Zealand has so many gang members**

And why their subcultures are so remarkable in their size

The Economist explains  
How and why | 10.10.2017 | 10:00 AM

With a quiet country, New Zealand has a peculiar problem with gangs. It is reckoned to have one of the highest membership rates in the world, in a population of 4.7m, police count over 5,300 mobsters or "prospects" who are angling to join. Cumulatively, that makes the groups larger than the army. Bikers like the Hells Angels and posers from Australia are among its 25 recognised groups, but two Maori crews dominate: Black Power and the...  
Read more

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**KEY POINTS:**

- On average, police attend a family violence incident every five and a half minutes - that's 279 calls each day.
- At least 80 per cent of family violence incidents are not reported to the police.
- Last year, police attended about 105,000 domestic violence incidents.
- If all incidents were reported, they would have attended at least 525,000 calls for help.

**Children and young people**

14% of young people report being hit or physically harmed on purpose by an adult at home in the last 12 months. (7)

20% of girls and 9% of boys in New Zealand report unwanted sexual touching or being forced to do sexual things. (8)

**Partner abuse**

50% of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) deaths occurred at the time of actual or intended separation. (9)

1 in 3 women experience physical and/or sexual violence from a partner in their lifetime. (10)

76% of recorded assaults against females are committed by an offender that is identified as family. (11)

# LIFE IS MESSY... HERE IN WAIUKU

**Sharon Hawke** ▸ Waiuku Grapevine.  
May 23 at 6:04pm · 🌐

Hi everyone, my son had some music equipment **stolen** last night from our garage and his car. Sometime between 10:30pm last night and 5am this morning. Very suspicious as nothing else has been taken. My son was writing a new song with his other band member until about... See More

👍 7      9 Comments 1 Share

**Molly Harford** ▸ Waiuku Grapevine.  
March 15 at 7:00pm · 🌐

Has anyone seen this phone? It was **stolen** out of my cousins bag at school in class, please if anyone has seen it or has it be honest and return it.



👍 13      10 Comments

**Hayley Hewett** ▸ The Franklin (NZ) Grapevine - Open Sharing Group  
4 hrs · 🌐

**STOLEN SCOOTER!**  
If your child has come home with a white MGP scooter that doesn't belong to them can you please contact me. My son had his stolen from outside the library today. Should have Hewett on the base on the deck

👍 11      4 Comments 3 Shares

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**Erueti Arana Honeri** ▸ franklin Buying, selling or swap  
May 29 at 8:14am · 🌐

##### Stolen #####  
\$522,868,550  
📍 Drury, New Zealand

Too that [redacted] who stole my work bag off my work truck while i quickly got me some breakfast outta the Drury bakery.. I hope you feel satisfied. Taking my tools means not getting jobs done, which means i cant make any money for my baby..

**Jenni Cross** ▸ You know you're from Waiuku when...  
March 8 at 11:39am · Auckland · 🌐

**Stealing Sux!** I sell plants at my gate in Valley Rd with an honesty box. They are only \$2 each. A lot of my plants are worth much more than that. I don't make a lot of money doing this, it's really just a hobby, I'm lucky if I sell 10 to 15 plants a week, some weeks I sell none. I... 🙄❤️ See More

👍 78      21 Comments

# GOSPEL-SHAPED EYES – SEE BEYOND THE PROBLEM TO THE POTENTIAL

## Problem

Titus 3: 3-7

At one time **we too** were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another.



## Potential In Christ

**But** when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, **he saved us**, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of **his mercy**. He **saved us** through the **washing of rebirth** and **renewal** by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us **generously** through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having **been justified by his grace**, we might become **heirs having the hope** of eternal life.

1 Cor 6: 9-11

Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither **the sexually immoral** nor **idolaters** nor **adulterers** nor **men who have sex with men** nor **thieves** nor the **greedy** nor **drunkards** nor **slanderers** nor **swindlers** will inherit the kingdom of God.



**And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified** in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

## GOSPEL-SHAPED EYES – SEE OUR PART WITHIN THE SOLUTION



Use what is in your hands to be Jesus with skin on



## GOSPEL-SHAPED EYES – SEES OUR PART WITHIN THE SOLUTION

Use what is in your hands to be Jesus with skin on



Waiuku Family Support Network  
Community Organization

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## GOSPEL-SHAPED EYES – SEE OUR PART WITHIN THE SOLUTION

Willing to walk the journey with you...



2 Cor 1: 3-4 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, **so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.**

1 Thes 5:11-14 Therefore **encourage one another** and **build each other up**...acknowledge those who work hard among you...And we urge you, brothers and sisters, **warn** those who are idle and disruptive, **encourage** the disheartened, **help** the weak, **be patient** with everyone.



## GOSPEL-SHAPED EYES – BALANCE THE HEAD, HEART, SPIRIT

Moved with  
compassion

Matt 14:14 When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick.

Matt 20:34 Jesus had compassion on them and touched their eyes. Immediately they received their sight and followed him.

Mark 1:41 - Had compassion on the Leper - reached out and touched him - be clean!

Led by the  
Holy Spirit

Matt 4:1 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert...

Acts 20:22 And now compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus Christ has given me – the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace

Informed by  
Wisdom

Acts 6:1-4 ...the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."

## GOSPEL-SHAPED EYES

SEE BEYOND THE PROBLEM TO THE POTENTIAL

SEE OUR PART IN THE SOLUTION

BALANCE HEAD HEART AND SPIRIT

LET'S GET MESSY!

But when the **kindness and love of God** our Savior appeared, **he saved us**, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of **his mercy**. He **saved us** through the **washing of rebirth and renewal** by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us **generously** through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having **been justified by his grace**, we might become **heirs having the hope** of eternal life.