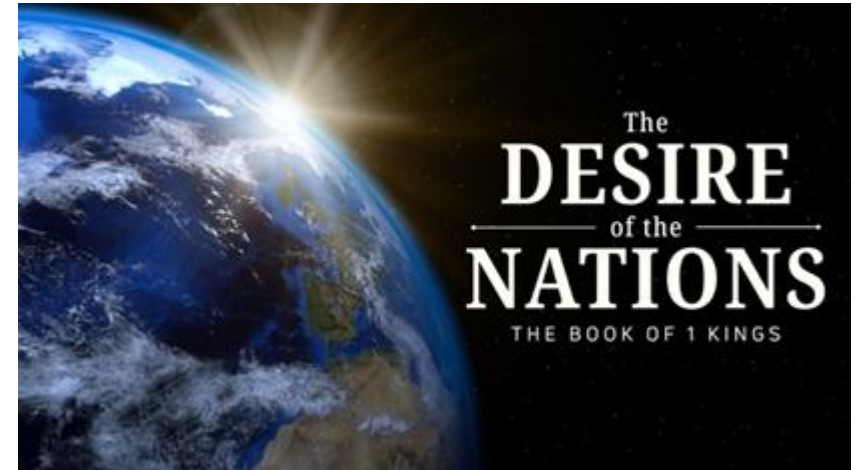


**Our Prayer for 2026:** Dear Father, Help us to gather to proclaim Christ, and please use every LMAP member to play a part in bringing 20 people to faith in Jesus in each of our ministries and congregations across the year. To your glory. AMEN.

## 1 Kings Series Break-up

**Marketing Title of Series:** The Desire of the Nations

**Overview of the Series:** Israel had everything—God’s promises, God’s presence, and God’s word. Yet they still wanted a king. In 1 Kings, we watch that story unfold. A kingdom rises in glory under Solomon, only to fracture, decline, and spiral into idolatry, injustice, and judgment. Again and again, the kings fail—sometimes subtly, sometimes spectacularly—but always decisively. And yet, God does not fail. Through wisdom and folly, temple and idols, prophets and kings, one truth becomes clear: God’s promises do not rest on human faithfulness, but on his own mercy and word. The deeper the failure, the clearer the need for a better king. This series traces the long, painful search for that king—and shows how it ultimately leads us to Jesus, the true king who does not fail, who bears judgment, and who brings God’s promises to completion.



**Purpose of the Series** (*that is, what is the desired and realistic goal for this series*): To help people see that every human king—and every human solution—ultimately fails, so that they would stop placing their trust in human wisdom, power, or performance, and instead trust Jesus as the true King who alone secures God’s promises.

**Series Champion** (*Ministry Team point person to oversee this series*): Dave Swan

### The Purpose of this Document:

- To instruct the **Gathering Leader, Kids Spot Speaker, Band Leader, Song Chooser** and **Preacher** in shaping each church gathering as whole – so that we intentionally draw out what we are looking at in the Bible each week. It will also mean, that particular features which complement what we do as a church, are addressed.
- To assist **Growth Group Leaders** and **Friday Youth Leaders** (and other ministry leaders) to arrange their program most logically and effectively to work in with the Bible Talk Series. And further to point to resources which can be used to lead groups well.
- To help the **Gathering Planners** (i.e. those who organise the rosters), **AV Ministry Team, Social Media**, and **Office** to have the information that they need to do the roles that they do most fruitfully and efficiently.

Talk No.	Preachers <i>(note: Master is the Google Drive Version)</i>	Passage	Reading	Talk Title <i>(marketing friendly)</i>	Talk Topic/Focus/Purpose	Comment/Outline	Gathering Googly <i>(feature/consideration)</i>
1.  12th April 2026  <b>School Holidays</b>	MR9: <b>PH</b> MR9 Kids Spot: <b>Vincent W</b>  GB9: <b>NL</b> <i>(livestreamed)</i> GB9 Kids Spot: <b>Combined with Talk</b>  GB10:30: <b>NL</b> GB10.30 Kids Spot: <b>Combined with Talk</b>  BL10:30: <b>PH</b>  BL4:30: <b>PH</b>  GB6: <b>NL</b> <i>(Bible Talk recorded for Church Central)</i>	1 & 2 Sam 1 & 2 Kings	1 Samuel 8:1-9  2 Kings 24:1-4	The Desire of the Nations	Overview of the Period of the Kings  Central Theme: This takes us back to the moment of Israel asking for a king and to the final outcome of the sacking of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar. As an overview, it is intended to orientate the congregation, especially those who may have joined us after Easter.  <i>Purpose: I want the listener to get an idea of the story, the big promises of God and the failure of Israel and Judah's kings to return his faithfulness. We should witness the faithfulness of God to his word, in both grace and judgement and find how these come together in the one king and one cross.</i>	NOTE: School Holidays (make sure you are visual)  NOTE: AT GB9am & GB10.30am NL will give a Family Friendly Talk  Song Suggestion <i>(Given it is school holidays it would be good to have a kid's song in addition to a kids spot):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>Idea: Place songs in a biblical timeline order so that OT is before sermon, NT is after.</i></li> <li>● <b>NEW SONG (to consider):</b></li> <li>● Christus Victor</li> <li>● Across the Lands</li> <li>● Undivided</li> <li>● The Father's Love</li> <li>● Come and Reign</li> </ul> Prayer Points to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Our Local, State and Federal Politicians.</li> <li>● King Charles</li> <li>● War torn Nations</li> </ul>	GB9am BBQ B/Fast  Lords Supper (GB10.30am > TO)  School Hol Activity Packs available (MR/GB9am/!0.30am) + Activity Tables in the Auditorium
2.  19th April 2026  <b>School Holidays</b>	MR9: <b>DSw</b> MR9 Kids Spot: <b>Vincent W</b>  GB9: <b>PH</b> <i>(livestreamed)</i>	1 Kings 1-4	1 Kings 1:1-4 & 2:1-4  1 Kings 3:1-28	Fear of the Lord is the Beginning of Wisdom	Central Theme: Solomon's ascension shows us the contingency the kingship has on God's faithfulness and the very real threat of human rebellion. Solomon's wisdom is asked for, gifted and exercised, and while the opening section ends with a picture of Israel under	NOTE: School Holidays (make sure you are visual)  Song Suggestion <i>(Given it is school holidays it would be good to have a kid's song in addition to a kids spot):</i>	Junior Band (GB9 > Richard M)  School Hol Activity Packs available

	<p>GB9 Kids Spot: <b>GO/Joel O</b></p> <p>GB10:30: <b>PH</b> GB10.30 Kids Spot: <b>GO/Joel Oakey</b></p> <p>BL10:30: <b>DSw</b></p> <p>BL4:30: <b>PH</b></p> <p>GB6: <b>DSw</b> (Bible Talk recorded for Church Central)</p>				<p>God's blessing, the seeds of his downfall are already apparent (3:1-2, 4:26).</p> <p><i>Purpose: I want the listener to see that God's faithfulness to his promises is what establishes his people and we would do well to trust in them.</i></p> <p><b>Connection to the true king Jesus?</b> Israel gathering around Solomon's table reminds us of Jesus' foreshadowing of the great feast and the warning for those who think they are secure without honoring the true king.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>NEW SONG (to consider):</b> Christus Victor</li> <li>● Sooner Count The Stars</li> <li>● By Faith</li> <li>● Your Word</li> <li>● Ancient of Days</li> <li>● Be Thou My Vision</li> </ul> <p>Prayer Points to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Our LMAP Kids and Youth Leaders</li> <li>● Our Musicians</li> </ul>	(MR/GB9am/!0.30am) + Activity Tables in the Auditorium
<p>3.</p> <p>26th April 2026</p> <p><b>Anglicare Mission Sunday</b></p> <p><b>Anzac Day Long Weekend</b></p>	<p>MR9: <b>JSh</b> MR9 Kids Spot: <b>??</b></p> <p>GB9: <b>DSw</b> (livestreamed) GB9 Kids Spot: <b>Lord's Supper</b></p> <p>GB10:30: <b>DSw</b> GB10.30 Kids Spot: <b>Mission Spot</b></p> <p>BL10:30: <b>TO</b></p> <p>BL4:30: <b>DSw</b></p> <p>GB6: <b>JSh</b> (Bible Talk recorded for Church Central)</p>	1 Kings 5-8	1 Kings 5:1-18  1 Kings 8:1-21	The Glory and the Mercy	<p>Central Theme: The building and dedication of the temple brings together the great promises of God, especially that he will be among his people. The details of the temple construction belie the absolute sovereignty of God and his special relationship with his people. Solomon's prayer however, anticipates the failure of Israel to come, and relies on God's mercy towards his chosen people to see the promises through and his name ultimately glorified.</p> <p><i>Purpose: I want the listener to see that although great things can be done in service to God, the value of his promises stands on his faithfulness, mercy and love, not ours.</i></p> <p><b>Connection to the true king Jesus?</b> Jesus' claimed to be the new and living temple of God (John 2:19), the place where God dwells with his people, the place where all God's promises stand on his faithfulness, love and mercy, not ours.</p>	<p>Song Suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Rejoice</li> <li>● Behold Our God</li> <li>● We Declare</li> <li>● Here We Stand</li> <li>● See Him Coming</li> </ul> <p>Prayer Points to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Give thanks for current and returned service men and women who have served Australia</li> <li>● Anglicare - particularly Foster Care, Disaster Relief, and Mobile Pantry</li> <li>● Thanks for the Mt Riv Redevelopment</li> </ul>	<p>Lord's Supper (GB9am &gt; DSw)</p> <p>Mission Spot: Anglicare (GB10.30&gt;NA/BL 10.30&gt;TO)</p> <p>Kids Church T2 starts (MR/GBam)</p>

						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministry Team - Dave and Liz Swan (GB/BL4.30)</li> </ul>	
<p>4.</p> <p>3rd May 2026</p> <p>DV Sunday &amp; Diocesan Day of Prayer</p>	<p>MR9: <b>DSw</b> MR9 Kids Spot: ??</p> <p>GB9: <b>NA</b> (livestreamed) GB9 Kids Spot: ??</p> <p>GB10:30: <b>NA</b> GB10.30 Kids Spot: ??</p> <p>BL10:30: <b>DSw</b></p> <p>BL4:30: <b>NA</b></p> <p>GB6: <b>DSw</b> (Bible Talk recorded for Church Central)</p>	1 Kings 9-11	<p>1 Kings 9:1-9</p> <p>1 Kings 11:1-13</p>	From Out of the Heart...	<p>Central Theme: The Lord's 2nd address to Solomon recognizes the temple and reaffirms his promises yet also ominously stresses the consequences of unfaithfulness. Deuteronomy 17:14-20 sits uncomfortably in the background as Solomon's diplomacy and self-indulgence seem to lack the wisdom we expect from God's king. This gives way to Solomon's heart being turned away as he pursues the gods of his many wives, incurring a prophetic judgement that divides the kingdom. Yet while the judgement somewhat dissolves Israel, it does not dissolve God's promises.</p> <p><i>Purpose: I want the listener to consider the need for God to change our heart, and to trust the true king Jesus as the one who will accomplish it.</i></p> <p><b>Connection to the true king Jesus?</b> <i>Jesus shows us the heart of the problem in Mark 7:21-23. Notice the mention of Solomon's heart being the root of the problem.</i></p>	<p>Song Suggestion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It Was Finished Upon That Cross</li> <li>Help Us See Christ</li> <li>Be Thou My Vision</li> <li>Won My Heart</li> </ul> <p>Prayer Points to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Other churches and denominations around the Mountains and Sydney who are proclaiming Jesus</li> <li>Victims &amp; Survivors of Domestic Abuse</li> <li>Ministry Team - Dave and Liz Swan (MR/BL10.30/GB6)</li> </ul>	Lord's Supper (BL10.30am > DSw)
<p>5.</p> <p>10th May 2026</p> <p>Mothers Day</p>	<p>MR9: <b>KDN</b> MR9 Kids Spot: ??</p> <p>GB9: <b>NL</b> (livestreamed) GB9 Kids Spot: ??</p> <p>GB10:30: <b>KDN</b> GB10.30 Kids Spot: ??</p>	1 Kings 12-16	<p>1 Kings 12:1-33</p> <p>1 Kings 14:21-31</p>	The Failure of Wisdom	<p>Central Theme: The kingdom of Israel is torn in two at the foolishness of Solomon's son Rehoboam, fulfilling God's judgement on Solomon. While Jeroboam, despite God's promise to rule the northern kingdom, fears the people he is meant to rule rather than God, replacing him with golden calves. The whole episode somewhat mimics the oppression of Pharaoh and the sin of Arron. The kings that follow in both Judah and Israel continue to arouse the anger and judgment of</p>	<p>Song Suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>God Is For Us</li> <li>Ancient of Days</li> <li>Rock of Ages</li> <li>Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me</li> <li>Be Thou My Vision</li> <li>Live For the Kingdom</li> </ul>	<p>GB9am BBQ B/Fast</p> <p>Profile Carer's Support Event for Mum's - 30th May (MR/BLam/GB &gt; DSw)</p>

	BL10:30: <b>NL</b>  BL4:30: <b>KDN</b>  GB6: <b>NL</b> <i>(Bible Talk recorded for Church Central)</i>				the Lord and fail despite their attempts to reign under their own strength and wisdom.  <i>Purpose: I want the listener to see how human wisdom without trust and obedience to God is doomed to fail.</i>  <b>Connection to the true King Jesus</b> <i>The need for a king who won't oppress or mislead is fulfilled in Jesus' words in Matthew 11:28-30</i>	Prayer Points to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mothers - particularly those who have played a helpful spiritual role in our lives (Grandmothers, Mums, God Mothers, Aunties etc.</li> <li>Foster Care</li> </ul>	
6.  17th May 2026  <b>Confirmation Sunday + Baptism + Mt Riv Hall Opening (Lunch)</b>	MR9: <b>PH</b> MR9 Kids Spot: <b>??</b>  GB9: <b>GK</b> <i>(livestreamed)</i> GB9 Kids Spot: <b>Baptism/ Confirmation</b>  GB10:30: <b>Gary Koo</b> GB10.30 Kids Spot: <b>Confirmation</b>  BL10:30: <b>PH</b>  BL4:30: <b>Gary Koo (PH)</b>  GB6: <b>Gary Koo</b> <i>(Bible Talk recorded for Church Central)</i>	1 Kings 17-19	1 Kings 16:29-1 Kings 17:6  1 Kings 18:16-45	Stubborn Hearts	Central Theme: Ahab represents the low point of Israel's apostasy. Against such a king God raises up his faithful prophet Elijah. Elijah's awesome miracles and prophecies bring glory to God, vindicate his word and bring judgement on his enemies. God does not fail, even as Israel does. Yet Israel will not repent. Elijah's despair at the lack of repentance (note the 1 Kings 19:3 NIV footnote) is met with God's gentle whisper of revelation. Israel is stubborn in their rejection of the covenant, God is more stubborn in keeping it.  <i>Purpose: I want the listener to understand the depths to which we fall when we reject God and also the stubbornness of God's commitment to his people and promises.</i>  <b>Connection to the true king Jesus:</b> <i>Jesus' declaration to Peter that he will build his church (Matt 16:18) or his parables about seeds (Mark 4:26-32) pick up similar themes that this section ends with.</i>	Song Suggestions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Consider Confirming Faith Songs for Confirmation</b></li> <li>In Tenderness</li> <li>Here We Stand</li> <li>Rock of Ages</li> <li>No Other Name</li> <li>Build My Life</li> <li>Won My Heart</li> </ul> Prayer Points to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Confirmees</li> <li>Baptism - Phoebe Catto and Family)</li> <li>MT Riv New Hall</li> <li>Bishop Gary Koo (and the Western Region)</li> </ul>	Baptism - Phoebe Catto (GB9am >PH - baptism by the Bishop)  Confirmation (GB9am/BL4.30 pm/GB6pm >NL)  MT Riv Opening New Hall Lunch (KDN)
7.	MR9: <b>GBH</b>	1 Kings 20-22	1 Kings 21:1-29 1 Kings 22:41-53	Rotten Kings. Righteous God	Central Theme: Naboth's vineyard exposes the rotten core of Israel's leadership—Ahab abuses power, Jezebel	Note: Given that Sorry Day is this week (26th May) it would be helpful	Note: Evening Churches Retreat

<p>24th May 2026</p> <p>National Sorry Day this week</p>	<p>MR9 Kids Spot: <b>Lord's Supper (GBH)</b></p> <p>GB9: <b>PH</b> <i>(livestreamed)</i> GB9 Kids Spot: <b>Lord's Supper (TO)</b></p> <p>GB10:30: <b>GBH</b> GB10.30 Kids Spot: <b>??</b></p> <p>BL10:30: <b>PH</b></p> <p>BL4:30: <b>PH</b></p> <p>GB6: <b>GBH</b> <i>(Bible Talk recorded for Church Central)</i></p>				<p>engineers injustice, and the innocent suffer. Though Ahab shows a fleeting repentance, the pattern of compromised kingship continues. Even in Judah, Jehoshaphat's partial faithfulness is mixed with dangerous alliances. God's word, however, proves unshakeable: Micaiah's prophecy stands, Ahab falls, and the long line of failed kings rolls on. The kings may ignore God's justice, but they cannot escape it.</p> <p><i>Purpose: I want the listener to see that injustice, compromise, and half-hearted repentance cannot secure God's kingdom—God's justice will prevail, and his word will not fail.</i></p> <p><b>Connection to the true king Jesus</b> <i>Where Ahab seizes a vineyard and sheds innocent blood, Jesus speaks of wicked tenants who do the same (Mark 12:1–12), exposing the deep injustice of the human heart. Yet unlike these kings, Jesus is the righteous king who does not take life but gives his own. On the cross, he bears God's justice for injustice, and in his resurrection, establishes a kingdom where righteousness and mercy finally meet.</i></p>	<p>to open our gatherings using the First Nations Recognition Prayer and in the prayers use the 'Sorry Day' prayer (see both below)</p> <p>Song Suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>NEW SONG (to consider):</b> Christus Victor</li> <li>● Ancient of Days</li> <li>● Your Word</li> <li>● There Is One Gospel</li> <li>● When I Survey <i>(Communion)</i></li> </ul> <p>Prayer Points to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sorry Day Prayer (see below)</li> </ul>	<p>Lord's Supper MR9am (GBH) GB9am (TO) BL4.30pm (KDN) GB6pm (GBH)</p>
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**Key:** MR = LMAP Mt Riv; BL = LMAP Blaxland; GB = LMAP Glenbrook; KDN = Ken Noakes; DS = Dave Swan; RC = Rachael Connor; Paul Hallam; NL = Nick Lindeback; JH = Julie Haddon; GO = Gail Oakey; NA = Neil Atwood; TO = Trevor Oakley; JLav = John Lavender; JSh = Josh Schroder; OB = Olivia Bush; JB = Jared Bartlett; JE = Jake Evans; GBH = Gary Haddon; AC = Andrew Cox; PC = Phil Coghlan; DC = Dave Catto; BCA = Bush Church Aid; MTC = Moore Theological College; CMS = Church Missionary Society; DLS = Daylight Savings; YA = Young Adults; MARS = Mountains Anglican Refugee Support; WSU = Western Sydney Uni AFES Group.

### Gathering Leader & Preacher:

- Take special note of the suggestions in the 'Gathering Googly' column. This detail should be kept in mind as you lead or preach.
  - Gathering leaders, *if scheduled into the elvanto plan*, you will need to make arrangements to incorporate this aspect into the gathering.

- Please note there is a visual Powerpoint template which we would prefer that you used so that we have some consistency across what we display (and so that we avoid some traps e.g. colours that cannot be seen, text too small, fonts too difficult, text which covers set logos, livestream split screen requirements etc.). This template exists in the 'G\_Ministry (Visuals for LMAP Gatherings > 1. Gathering Visuals > 2. Slide Library (Where to look...)) > Bible Talk Series Visual Templates > [this Bible Talk series Folder] - and can be emailed to you on request ([admin@lmap.org.au](mailto:admin@lmap.org.au)) .

### **Devotionals or Bible Study** *(for the benefit of Growth Group Leaders):*

- Chris Jolliffe - *1 Kings*. Holy Trinity Adelaide (6 studies) - <https://churchcentralonline.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/11-1-kings-bible-study.pdf>
- James Hughes - *1 Kings 1-11: The rise and fall of King Solomon*. Good Book Company (8 Studies) - <https://www.thegoodbook.com.au/1-kings-1-11-the-rise-and-fall-of-king-solomon>

### **Commentary suggestions** *(for the benefit of Growth Group Leaders and Preachers):*

- Dale Ralph-Davis - *1 Kings - the Wisdom and the Folly*. (Focus On The Bible Commentary Series: Christian Focus Publications, 2008 [Dave's recommendation: The most readable and in my mind the best commentary on 1 Kings I have read. Excellent at letting the text speak rather than the clever ideas of scholars])
- Iain W. Proven - *1 and 2 Kings*. Understanding The Bible Commentary Series: Baker Book House, 1993 [Also recommended. Takes some different lines to Dale Ralph Davis, so good for comparison. Highly accessible.]
- Tim Chester - *1 Kings For You*. Good Book Company 2026 [Very helpful at taking large narrative and simplifying]
- Andrew Sach & Alasdair Henderson - *Dig Deeper into 1 & 2 Kings*. IVP 2025 [Helpful as a light commentary but with questions that can be used in Growth Group and personal devotions]
- John W. Olley - *The Message of 1 & 2 Kings*. Bible Speaks Today Series: IVP, 2022 [Usually a reliable series and helpful on application]
- Bob Fyall - *Teaching 1 Kings*. Proclamation Trust's "Preaching The Bible" Series: Christian Focus Publications, 2015 [This recommendation is for the preachers although there are some helpful suggestions for Growth Groups at the end of each section]
- Nathan Lovell - *1 & 2 Kings*. The Hodder Bible Commentary: Hodder & Stoughton, 2026 [This is brand new this year, and although I (KDN) have not been able to get my hands on a copy as yet, this book has been recommended to me by several people whom I trust. It will be detailed]

### **Song suggestions** *(for the benefit of Gathering Leaders & Song Choosers):*

*In the Song Selections above – Josh Schroder should have been consulted as we have limited the range of songs that make up our LMAP Song list.*

*Band Leaders: Vincent Willard (MR9am); Michael Webb (BL10.30am); Jason Byrne (GB9am); Mel Freeman (GB10:30am); Callum Beaton (BL4.30pm); Josh Schroder (GB6pm)*

Copyright questions should be directed to Liz Thornton.

### **First Nations Prayers** *(for Sunday 24th May - two days before 'Sorry Day'):*

**Prayer in Acknowledgement of Country** *(to use at the beginning of our Gathering on 24th May)*

*Our Lord and loving heavenly Father, we acknowledge that you are Creator of all that is. We acknowledge that in your Providence you gave custodianship of the land upon which we meet to the Dharug and Gundungurra people. We acknowledge with sorrow the painful history between the Aboriginal people and the later settlers of this land, and we pray that you may work between us for the réconciliation that is the gift of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.*

**Sorry Day Prayer** *(to use in the prayers in the gatherings on 24th May)*

*Lord and Loving Father,*

*We thank you for your grace and mercy shown through your son Jesus Christ who came not to condemn the world but to save it.*

*Today we take time to remember the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who were removed from their families and suffered the loss of culture and identity. We acknowledge the grief and loss suffered by the many families who had their children taken.*

*Father, we pray for those who were removed and ask that you may bring hope and healing to each child who may be still struggling today as adults. We pray for peace and comfort to be upon the families who are still waiting for their loved ones to return and ask that somehow, Father, you may reunite these broken families.*

*Bring healing to the broken hearted, hope to the hopeless, and love to those who have never experienced true love. As we grieve with those who are grieving, may you grant us all hope for the future in Christ Jesus.*

*We ask all these things in and through the precious name of our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ. AMEN*