

Consecrated Stewards

Let's consider what happened for the disciples as that first Easter unfolded.

Over the next 40 days, Jesus Christ appeared to them many times before he was taken up into glory. During that time, we're told he taught them many things and instructed them to **wait** for the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.

After Jesus' ascension in Acts 1, the disciples gathered together in prayer and, in fulfillment of Scripture, appointed another apostle to take the place of Judas.

Then, a few days after Jesus' ascension—**50 days after his resurrection**—the Holy Spirit came in power on the day of Pentecost, and the church of Jesus was born.

As part of Jesus' church on the Bellarine, we are believing God for a fresh move of the Holy Spirit.

Just as the disciples prepared themselves for Pentecost, we believe we are called to **consecrate ourselves** so that we can **steward** what the Spirit pours out.

Consecration and stewardship are not words we use much today, but they are a **perfect description** of Jesus—and what he calls us to be.

Over these seven weeks, we're encouraging you to consecrate yourself in preparation, so that **together** we can steward what the Holy Spirit wants to bring.

There are two ways to do this. Firstly in your life group and second in your personal reflection.

1. In your life group, we have a key scripture for you to do a DBS each week
2. Personally, we have provided a reflection based on the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20).

Both of these are below.

DBS Passages for Life Groups

| Preaching Date | Passage | Theme |
|----------------|--|--|
| Apr 12th | Genesis 4:1–8 | The Cain Heart - The instinct to grasp, control, and define life on our terms. |
| Apr 19th | Genesis 4:2–5 Supporting: Ps 39:4–5; Heb 11:4 | The Abel Heart - life as breath, gift, dependent. Faith expressed through trust. |
| Apr 26th | Psalms 24:1 Supporting: 1 Chron 29:14; Deut 8:17–18 | Responding to God, the rightful owner and generous giver of everything. |
| May 3rd | Matthew 25:14–30 | Living as faithful stewards of what God has entrusted us with. |
| May 10th | Romans 12:1 Supporting: Josh 3:5; 2 Tim 2:20–21 | Setting apart our lives as living sacrifices – the heart of consecration |
| May 17th | Luke 22:42 Supporting: Jn 5:19; Philippians 2:5–8 | Jesus as the model of surrendered living |
| May 24th | Acts 2:1–4 Supporting: Acts 1:8; 1 Cor 6:19–20 | Consecration leads to filling and mission. Open hands are the lives God fills and sends. |
| May 31st | | EGS Sunday |

Consecrated Stewards – 7 Week Journey using the ten commandments.

How to use this guide. Each week:

- Focus on **one commandment**
- Spend time daily (10–15 mins) using the four movements:
Instruction → **Thanksgiving** → **Confession** → **Petition**
- Gather (if possible) with others to share what God is doing

Week 1: No Other Gods (Re-centering Worship)

Commandment:“ You shall have no other gods before me.”

Focus: What sits at the centre of my trust, identity, and security?

Daily Practice:

- **Instruction:** God alone is worthy of ultimate trust
- **Thanksgiving:** Thank God that He has revealed Himself as Father
- **Confession:** Where have I trusted other things? (money, reputation, control)
- **Petition:** Ask for a heart that trusts God above all

Simple Action: Fast from something that competes for your attention (e.g. social media, news, or a comfort habit)

Week 2: No Idols (Right Vision of God)

Commandment:“ You shall not make for yourself an idol.”

Focus: Am I shaping God in my image, or letting Him reveal Himself?

Daily Practice:

- **Instruction:** God is not to be reduced or controlled
- **Thanksgiving:** Thank God that He is greater than your imagination
- **Confession:** Where have I limited or reshaped God?
- **Petition:** Ask for a clearer, truer vision of God

Simple Action: Spend time each day in a Gospel passage, letting Jesus Christ reveal what God is like

Week 3: Honour God’s Name (Speech & Witness)

Commandment:“ You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.”

Focus: How do my words reflect (or distort) God’s name?

Daily Practice:

- **Instruction:** God’s name represents His character
- **Thanksgiving:** Thank God that you bear His name
- **Confession:** Where have my words dishonoured God?
- **Petition:** Ask for speech that honours Him

Simple Action: Intentionally speak encouragement, truth, and life each day

Week 4: Sabbath (Trust & Rest)

Commandment:“ Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.”

Focus: Do I trust God enough to stop?

Daily Practice:

- **Instruction:** Rest is an act of trust, not laziness
- **Thanksgiving:** Thank God that He provides
- **Confession:** Where am I striving or over-controlling?
- **Petition:** Ask for deeper trust in God’s provision

Simple Action: Set aside a block of time to rest, worship, and delight in God

Week 5: Honour Relationships (Love in Action)

Commandment:“ Honour your father and mother.”

Focus: Living with humility, honour, and relational integrity

Daily Practice:

- **Instruction:** God values honour and order in relationships
- **Thanksgiving:** Thank God for those who have shaped you
- **Confession:** Where have I dishonoured or withheld love?
- **Petition:** Ask for a heart that honours others

Simple Action: Reach out to encourage or reconcile with someone

Week 6: Value Life (Love Your Neighbour)

Commandment:“ You shall not murder.”

Focus: Not just avoiding harm—but actively loving others

Daily Practice:

- **Instruction:** God values every human life
- **Thanksgiving:** Thank God for His patience and mercy
- **Confession:** Where have I harboured anger, bitterness, or indifference?
- **Petition:** Ask for a heart of compassion and love

Simple Action: Do a deliberate act of kindness or service each day

Week 7: Integrity of Heart (Whole-Life Holiness)

Commandment: (Drawing together the remaining commands – truth, faithfulness, contentment)

Focus: A life aligned with God inwardly and outwardly

Daily Practice:

- **Instruction:** God cares about the heart, not just behaviour
- **Thanksgiving:** Thank God for His transforming grace
- **Confession:** Where is there misalignment in my life?
- **Petition:** Ask for integrity, purity, and contentment

Simple Action: Do a personal “inventory” with God—invite Him to search your heart