

<p>2024 Season of Creation</p>  <p>Pocket Activity Guide</p>	<p><i>The Season of Creation</i> is the ecumenical Christian celebration that calls us together to pray and respond jointly to the cry of Creation every year since 1989.</p>	<p><i>At Eastwood Uniting,</i> we celebrate 2024 Season of Creation in our unique way, incorporating our local culture, values, and creativity and reflecting on own season of journey.</p>		<p><i>Embracing Our God</i> is the theme based on Romans 8*, and next 7 Sundays we will explore biblical, spiritual and practical way to find who God is for us in today's faith journey.</p>	<p><i>Important dates:</i> Sunday 8 September Mission Plan Discussion Sunday 15 September Congregational Meeting Sunday 29 September The Blessing of God's Creatures</p>
<p>Week 1 (18 Aug)</p> <p>Embracing Grace: Freedom from Judgement</p> <p>Romans 8:1-4 (Key verse: 1)</p>	<p><i>Focus</i></p> <p>Starting point for individuals beginning faith journey of hope, acceptance and liberation</p>	<p><i>Question</i></p> <p>How can understanding that there is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus influence your daily decision-making and interactions with others?</p>	<p><i>Reflect on</i> how this assurance impacts your choices and attitudes, both in personal behaviour and in how you treat others. <u>How can this understanding help you overcome feelings of guilt or inadequacy?</u></p>	<p><i>Invocation</i></p> <p>Lord, we invite Your presence among us today. Embrace us with Your peace and guidance.</p>	<p>Call to Action</p> <p>This week, I will commit to God and our neighbour by ...</p> 
<p>Week 2 (25 Aug)</p> <p>Living by the Spirit: Opening our hearts to the Spirit's leading</p> <p>Romans 8:5-11 (Key verse: 5)</p>	<p><i>Focus</i></p> <p>Encouraging the gathered congregation embracing spiritual growth and keeping faith alive</p>	<p><i>Question</i></p> <p>How does understanding the role of the Spirit in giving life and resurrection impact your view of your current struggles or challenges?</p>	<p><i>Reflect on</i> how the Spirit's role in giving life and resurrection can provide hope and strength in the midst of difficulties. <u>How does this perspective change your approach to challenges?</u></p>	<p><i>Prayer</i></p> <p>God, let us deeply experience Your boundless love, and reflect it in all our relationships.</p>	<p>Gratitude</p> <p>Today, I am thankful for ...</p> 
<p>Week 3 (1 Sep)</p> <p>Welcoming our true identity as Beloved Children of God</p> <p>Romans 8:12-17 (Key verse: 15)</p>	<p><i>Focus</i></p> <p>Recognising the importance of identifying as children of God</p>	<p><i>Question</i></p> <p>What steps can you take to experience and express the intimate relationship with God as 'Abba, Father' in your personal life?</p>	<p><i>Identify ways</i> to cultivate and express a deeper, more personal relationship with God. <u>How can this intimate connection influence your daily life and spiritual practices?</u></p>	<p><i>Lament</i></p> <p>Righteous God, we cry out against the injustice we see. Bring Your justice and mercy to a broken world.</p>	<p>Call to Action</p> <p>This week, I will commit to God and our neighbour by ...</p> 

* The book of Romans is included in the New Testament of the Bible, and its author, the Apostle Paul, wrote it to teach who God is and what the risen Lord Jesus Christ has done.

<p>Week 4 (8 Sep)</p> <p>Suffering and Glory: Finding Strength in embracing suffering and glory</p> <p>Romans 8:18-25 (Key verse: 18)</p>	<p><i>Focus</i></p> <p>Understanding suffering and glorifying God's plan</p>	<p><i>Question</i></p> <p>What role does hope play in your ability to cope with suffering, and how can this hope be nurtured in your life and in the lives of others?</p>	<p><i>Reflect on</i> the role of hope in enduring suffering. <u>How can hope be cultivated and strengthened, both personally and communally?</u></p>	<p><i>Prayer</i></p> <p>Grant us Your peace, Lord, calming our hearts and guiding us through every uncertainty.</p>	<p>Gratitude</p> <p>Today, I am thankful for ...</p> 
<p>Week 5 (15 Sep)</p> <p>The Spirit's Help: Embracing weakness to uncover God's creative design</p> <p>Romans 8:26-27 (Key verse: 26)</p>	<p><i>Focus</i></p> <p>The Holy Spirit's transforming role helping us see and appreciate God's creation</p>	<p><i>Question</i></p> <p>How does the concept of the Spirit interceding for us change your perspective on prayer and God's involvement in your life?</p>	<p><i>Reflect on</i> how understanding the Spirit's role in intercession affects your view of prayer and God's active role in your life. <u>How does this perspective impact your prayer practices?</u></p>	<p><i>Invocation</i></p> <p>Mighty God, embrace us with Your strength. Empower us to face our challenges with unwavering faith.</p>	<p>Call to Action</p> <p>This week, I will commit to God and our neighbour by ...</p> 
<p>Week 6 (22 Sep)</p> <p>Steadfast in Change: God's Plan and Assurance for Seekers of Christ</p> <p>Romans 8:28-30 (Key verse: 28)</p>	<p><i>Focus</i></p> <p>Discerning God's plan and how we EUC people encourage each other and convey God's assurance</p>	<p><i>Question</i></p> <p>What comfort and assurance do you find in knowing that God's plan encompasses all aspects of your life, including suffering and joy?</p>	<p><i>Reflect on</i> the comfort and assurance provided by the knowledge of God's encompassing plan. <u>How does this understanding affect your response to both suffering and joy in your life?</u></p>	<p><i>Lament</i></p> <p>Embrace us with Your forgiveness, Lord, and help us forgive others as You have forgiven us.</p>	<p>Gratitude</p> <p>Today, I am thankful for ...</p> 
<p>Week 7 (29 Sep)</p> <p>The Inseparable Love of God</p> <p>Romans 8:31-39 (Key verses: 38-39)</p>	<p><i>Focus</i></p> <p>Emphasising the profound nature of God's love and the blessings from enduring relationship with God</p>	<p><i>Question</i></p> <p>How can the assurance that nothing can separate you from God's love influence your daily life and relationships?</p>	<p><i>Discuss</i> how the certainty of God's unbreakable love impacts your interactions and relationships. <u>What practical ways can this assurance be reflected in daily life and EUC congregation?</u></p>	<p><i>Blessing</i></p> <p>Lord, bless our relationships with love and understanding. Foster unity, compassion, and mutual respect among us.</p>	 <p>Eastwood Uniting Church</p> <p><i>This is your local Christian church!</i></p>