



Everyone make the letters "CY" with your hands! - Fun group photo at KYCK 2013

Hello!!! From the Team Leaders

By Josh Lum Mow & Dan Marr

Welcome to our first CY newsletter for the year! God has been doing incredible things at CY since it started and we (as the CY leadership team) would love to share these latest developments with you.

The contents of this newsletter magazine will cover a summary of the term, what we've been learning, what's coming up, a spotlight on an event, a get-to-know-you section and prayer points. It's our hope and prayer that through this

newsletter you'd share in our joy in thanking God for what He is doing and support us in prayer over the year.

There will be four newsletters for 2013 with each being released at the end of the school term. We look forward to seeing and sharing what God has install for us.

Until then - we hope you find this newsletter encouraging!

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Summary of Term 1

Let's do this!

By Dan Marr

The first term of CY 2013 was like being at the starting line of the Amazing Race and then bursting off into the first part of what will be an awesome adventure.

We started the term with CY Kickoff, the first CY of the year, where we got to meet our new leaders (Kelvin Choi, Jayne Ling, Nat Garven, Liz Hung and Mel Yip) and people in our new Bible study groups. It was also a time for Josh Lum Mow to share the vision for us this year – to grow in spiritual maturity (Eph 4:7-16).

Our nights at CY are usually comprised of two parts: CY Praise and Bible studies. During CY Praise we sing, play a game, pray, hear announcements and read the Bible together. We've also added a new Memory Verse section to CY Praise this year so we can encourage one another to memorise scripture each week. When CY Praise is over, we move off into our Bible study groups to learn from God's word, share our lives with each other and pray for one another. The studies this term have been based on the theme of "Seeing Jesus in Genesis" (more on this in the Book Summary next).

Apart from our normal CY nights there have been four special events this term.

Junior/Senior Night – Years 7-10 got an introduction to the big story of the Bible based on the kingdom themes in the book "God's Big Picture" by Vaughan Roberts. The idea was to

Quick Look	
Avg. number of youth	53
Number of weeks	11
Book studied	Genesis
Events	CY Kickoff, Jnr/Snr Night, Evangelism Topical, Parents Night, KYCK
New & Noteworthy	New Leaders, Memory Verses, JOFC Sharing, CY Leader's Retreat

give them a bigger context to how the whole Bible fits together. Years 11-12 focused on the HSC and learnt how to look after themselves, grow as a Christian during this stressful time and study for God's glory.

Parents Night – A special time for the parents of CYers to come and experience what a normal CY is like, meet their leaders, hear CY's Philosophy of Ministry and understand the vision for CY.

Evangelism Topical – A night where our guest speaker, Pete Malone, and Anna Zhang taught us about why we share the gospel, what it is and the importance of follow up.

Team Unity

LEFT: Beth giving a mini-talk to the seniors about the HSC.

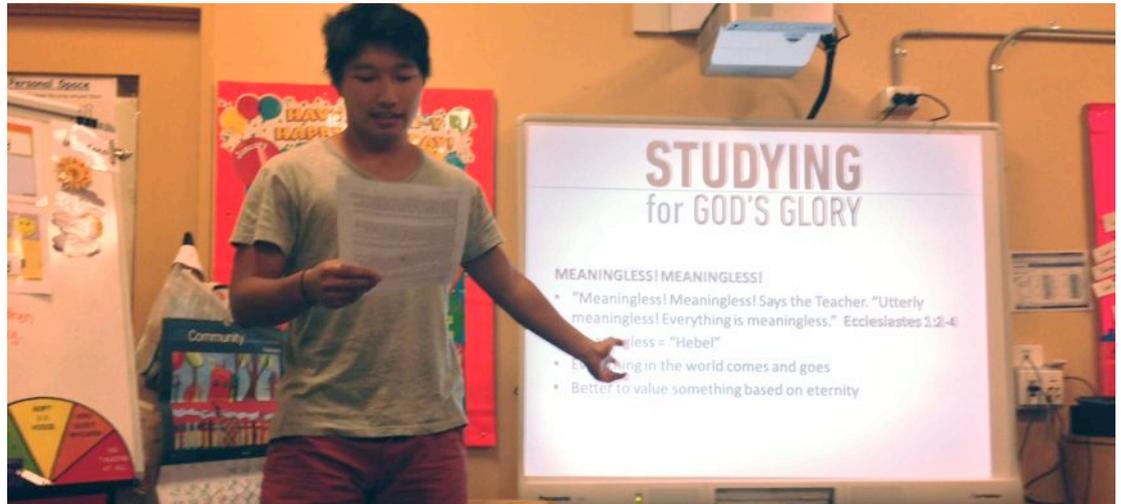
RIGHT: Kelvin announcing that rego is open for KYCK.



Summary of Term 1 (cont'd)

Let's do this!

By Dan Marr



KYCK – A high school Christian conference in Katoomba repeated over each weekend of the school holidays. We learnt about God's love for us, had great fellowship and saw some of our youth re-commit their lives to living for Jesus (more on this in the Event Spotlight).

Other notable things that have happened include:

- Dan Yeung and Liz Hung sharing about their time with the JOFC Thailand Mission team.
- Bible study groups bonding over socials during the school holidays.
- CY Leader's Retreat in mid-Jan, where the leadership team prepared for CY 2013 by renting a place to spend a few days praying, bonding, planning and learning how to be better youth leaders.
- CY Leader's Meetings that happen once-a-month and cycle through three types: admin, CSP and training. Admin is the general running of CY, CSP stands for Care, Share and Prayer where we talk about our groups and pray for each other and the training we did this term was a workshop on "How to Lead Better Bible Studies".
- We got a new offertory box! Shaped as a teddy bear to replace Simba - the black piggy (it was hard getting \$5 notes out of him).
- New CY calendar cards!

That's term one and the leadership team are immensely thankful to God for a great start to the year.

Heaps of Things

TOP: Mitch giving a mini-talk to the seniors about the HSC.

LEFT: CY Calendar Cards

RIGHT: KYCK Conference (Tin Shed)



Summary of Term 1 (cont'd) Details and Pics!

By Dan Marr



CY Leadership Team 2013:

Back Row - Dan Marr, Steve Khoo, Anna Zhang, Beth Tang, Liz Hung, Sam Key, Jayne Ling, Nat Garven, Ruth Chen, Lawrence Ho, Derek Cheung, Ethan Lum Mow.

Front Row - Bren Tang, Kelvin Choi, Josh Lum Mow, Mel Yip, Kara Cheung, Mitch Marr, Leo Chan, Dan Yeung, Kesh Fay

Breakdown of Bible Study Groups:

Boys		Girls	
Year	Leaders	Year	Leaders
7-8 Boys	Derek Cheung + Kelvin Choi	7-8 Girls	Sam Key + Liz Hung
9 Boys	Dan Yeung + Steve Khoo		Jayne Ling + Mel Yip
10 Boys	Bren Tang	9-10 Girls	Ruth Chen + Kara Cheung
11 Boys	Mitch Marr + Lawrence Ho	11 Girls	Beth Tang + Anna Zhang
12 Boys	Ethan Lum Mow + Leo Chan	12 Girls	Kesh Fay + Nat Garven

Good Times!

TOP: CY leaders photo from week 8.

LEFT: Year 9 boys at KYCK.

RIGHT: CY leaders at CY Leaders Retreat.



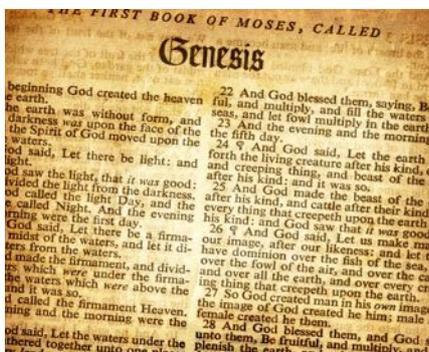
Book Summary Seeing Jesus in Genesis

By Josh Lum Mow

This year we started CY right back at the beginning. The book of Genesis is a fascinating and important part of scripture, yet although we may know all the Sunday School stories of creation, Noah's Ark, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph we don't often take the time to study these stories in depth. More importantly, if the whole Bible is about Jesus, where do we see Jesus in Genesis?

Term one saw us touch into Genesis on seven occasions; creation, the fall, Noah, Babel, the promises to Abraham, Abraham and Isaac, and when Jacob wrestled with God. Upon closer inspection, it's amazing how Jesus can be seen in many of these passages and how that shapes and changes the way we read them.

It's important that we look at the backdrop and context of the gospel. For without knowing about creation, the fall and the patriarchs you can miss out on



MEANING: A Greek word meaning "origin," "source," "generation," or "beginning."

the beauty, richness and ingenuity of God's salvation plan through Jesus.

These stories set the stage in pencil outline for the gospel - and when we look back at them with gospel-glasses, the image is now full 1080p HD in vivid colour.

For example, in creation we see how God created by His Word, which we understand to be Jesus from John 1. God created the universe with order and purpose, and created man and woman in His image. When we look at the gospel, we see Jesus as the fulfilment of all this - as the purpose of creation is



for Christ, with Jesus as Lord and ruler over all things, as he is the perfect image of God, the fulfilment of humanity. It is in Jesus that humanity has purpose and bears God's image perfectly.

In our third study on the Tower of Babel, we saw how humanity wanted to unite themselves under their own name. God is not against unity - in fact, this is his desire for his people; that they would be one as He is one. However, the problem was that humanity has desired to be united apart from God, under themselves. And so God frustrates their attempt and scatters them over the world. The beauty of the gospel is that in Jesus, we can be truly united in the way that God intended us to be. We see glimpses of this at Pentecost, when Jews from every nation gathered to hear Peter proclaim the gospel. Looking forward to Revelation, we see a picture of a united humanity under Jesus - a multitude of people from every tribe, nation and tongue all worshipping Jesus as King. It is in Jesus that true unity is realised.

In our final study on Genesis 32, we saw how Jacob, after sending all his blessings and possessions over the river to his brother Esau, wrestled with God. Although Jacob was a changed man, there was one thing he had not surrendered that God wanted. God wanted his heart, his whole life. And so God wrestled with Jacob in order to get it, but Jacob resisted and would not yield. God humbled Jacob by wounding him, by dislocating his hip with a touch, and Jacob submits to God, clings to Him and pleads for a

"It's important that we look at the backdrop and context of the gospel. For without knowing about creation, the fall and the patriarchs you can miss out on the beauty, richness and ingenuity of God's salvation plan through Jesus."

JLM

blessing. In a similar way, Jesus was wounded and humbled on the cross, and he pleads for a blessing - but not for his sake; for ours. Jesus goes to the cross so that we could be blessed, and the only right response to this is to submit our whole lives to God, to be humbled, to repent and give it all to Him. Yes, in life we may at times wrestle with God, and sometimes God will maim us in order to make us cling to him. The question is in that situation, do we submit to Him, or harden our hearts? It is in Jesus that we must repent and find forgiveness from sin.

The shadow of Jesus and the gospel is all throughout the Old Testament. Knowing the links help us to appreciate all the more exactly what Christ has done for us on the cross. We just need to open our eyes and seek him in the scriptures, and God will reveal to us the richness of his plan in Jesus.



Fellowship

ABOVE: Liz with some of the Year 7-8 Girls at KYCK



“When we look at the kind of love God has for us and are assured by it, we will also know how to love others.”

AZ

“This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.”

1 John 4:10



ABOVE: Dan Yeung and Anna Zhang at KYCK

Event Spotlight KYCK 2013

By Anna Zhang

A mountain pile of junk food in our sleeping quarters, there for the sole purpose of being consumed after lights out. Screaming teenagers. Late nights talking about boys. Getting lost. Cold showers. Oh...cold showers. These were some of my fears an hour before 52 high schoolers and 17 CY leaders packed into a fleet of cars (with the help of many generous drivers from Cornerstone) on a windy Friday afternoon. Soon we'd be at the annual weekend high school Christian conference, known as KYCK (run by Katoomba Christian Convention), with 1500 other youth (some travelling more than ten hours to be there!). The buzz was building, not even the forecast could dampen our spirits. We were excited...but about what, I wondered?

This year's KYCK was to focus on the book of 1 John and was captured in the theme of “This Is Love”, taken from 1 John 4:10, which just so happens to be CY's theme verse and is printed on the back of our new CY hoodies. After sloshing down a big hearty meal of nachos with an overabundant supply of veggies (yes, we looked after the kids well), we headed to the first session on Friday night. We were all bright-eyed and in full anticipation of what we would

experience and learn. We met our first speaker, Jeremy Dunne, who spoke on 1 John 1:1-2:2. Jeremy introduced us to the follower of Jesus, John, the author of the book, and premises that we can have full confidence that John speaks the truth because he knows first-hand the One who does – Jesus Himself. He explained that because there is absolutely no darkness in God (verse 5), He loves with pure and perfect intentions. This means that we should and can confess freely and courageously (verse 9). He challenged us to admit to sin rather than go talk about our ‘struggles’, which ultimately makes us proud and self-righteous, and distant from God. It is when we understand God's pure intentional love to make us completely clean (verse 9) that we can experience assurance and closeness to God as we confess. “I've never been so challenged about how to confess sin...I always use those words ‘I'm struggling with...’ rather than ‘I'm sinning...’” – Year 9 girl.

Saturday morning, we were woken to sound of boys rushing out of their rooms making sure they get their hot showers before 7am, and opened our eyes to a sight of...fog. After some delicious bacon and egg muffins, we headed into the

Event Spotlight (cont'd)

KYCK 2013

By Anna Zhang

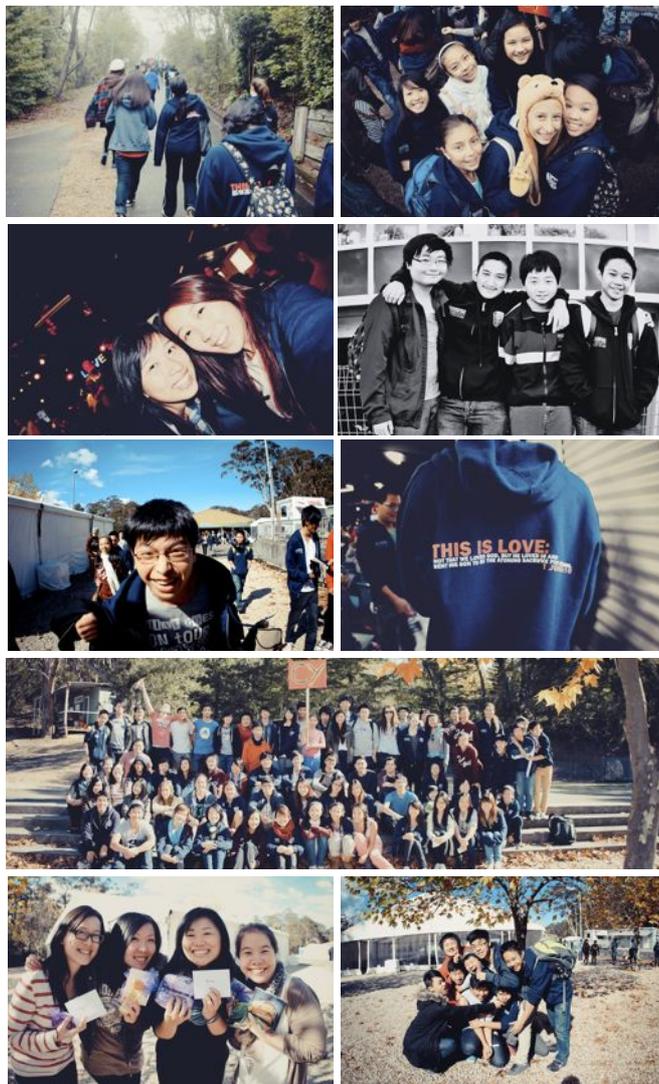
baffling cold up to the tin shed where KYCK happens. At our first session, before morning tea, Dave Miers, our other speaker, challenged us about what worldliness looks like, why it's stupid, and how to fight it (1 John 2:12-17). After morning tea, Jeremy spoke on 1 John 2:28-3:10, ultimately reminding us that Jesus' work on the cross has won us the freedom and privilege to relate to God as our Father. It is when we don't see ourselves as His children that we live not as we ought and he gave us some great examples to illustrate this point (e.g. living with God as our teacher, our boss, or even our drill sergeant). When we look at the kind of love God has for us (3:1) and are assured by it, we will also know how to love others. After this session, we headed back down the mountain, back to Katoomba High School for some group games, free time, personal time with God in His word, having deep and meaningful, hot chocolate, and catching up on some desperately needed zzzzzzzz.

Saturday evening's session (traditionally the night that youth are challenged to truly make Jesus their King and Saviour if they haven't yet) is always such an uplifting night, and this year was no exception. Dave spoke from 1 John 3:11-24 and explained that we know God loves us because "This is how we have come to know love: He laid down His life for us" (3:16a). The implication for the Christian (the person who knows this love) is that "We should also lay down our lives for our brothers" (3:16b). So we are to believe in Jesus and love like Jesus (3:23). This is what it means to obey God, and "the one who keeps His commands remains in Him, and He in him" (3:24). On this particular night, more than 250 high schoolers made a decision to obey Jesus in this way (!!!!!). It truly was a celebration not only in heaven but in that tin shed on earth that evening. When we arrived back at the high school, we were welcomed with hot Milo and the most amazing fudge brownies. As amazing as they were, one of the year 8 girls definitely had too much! Some of us stayed up for a little discussing the things we were challenged and encouraged by in the talks so far and prayed for each other. Others continued down-sizing their junk mountain. And others still, enjoyed their first hot shower.

We met Sunday morning with the bittersweet sunlight streaming into our class (bed) rooms. The thought of packing up brought some groaning (but to me some sweating, trying to push a sleeping bag into a bag which just wouldn't fit). After a breakfast of hot chicken congee (with carrots...mmm vitamin A), we headed one last time up the mountain for the last two sessions of KYCK. After singing some songs we had become very familiar with over the weekend and singing one last time the memory verse (1 John 4:10 to the tune of "I Knew You Were Trouble" by Taylor Swift), we listened to two challenging and very practical talks on what it means to indeed love like Jesus and continue as a Christian in this life from the last two chapters of 1 John. Jeremy explained that Jesus wants his people to be known for their love, and that unless we're known for this we do nothing for the cause of Christ. He then shared what this looks like under the principle that anything we do to show God's love (displayed by the act on the cross) is to show God (His character) because, as John tells us, God is love. Love, then, is not optional. This also means that we do not let fear (approval from others) shape our actions. Dave gave us the concluding

words on what evidences as knowing Jesus personally. To know Jesus means to continue in Him everyday in love for our brothers and sisters, in truth of who Jesus is more and more, and in obedience to His commands.

The excitement seemed over. KYCK was finished. And so, what were we excited about? The ups of the Christian are sweet, but as Dave concluded, he gives an analogy of how in the SAS ("Super Awesome Soldiers"), men would live, train and fight in squads of 30. When one failed in training, the rest had to pay the 'punishment' with him. And so, during training, if one fell, the others would push them to the front of the line to make sure he does not fall ultimately. And so, it is with the Christian. Our assurance is already secure but we must keep walking with Jesus; and God has given us each other that we might keep pushing one another to overcome and continue in Jesus. The victory we experience along the way and finally at the end would then be all the more sweet as we experience God's presence in the ups and downs and in between.



TOP-DOWN: Fog, Year 11 Girls, Year 9 Boy, Group Photo, Our Generous Hardworking Cooks!

TOP-DOWN: Year 7-8 Girls, Year 9 Boys, CY Hoodie, Group Photo, Year 11 Boys

Get-To-Know-A-Leader



Nat Garven (Year 12 Girls)

What do you do outside of CY?

I am a fourth year/Honours student at UTS studying Interior and Spatial Design (it's like architecture).

Funniest memory of CY

The year 12 girls provide a fair bit of entertainment each week, but I guess week 1 this year wins. We played the chocolate game, and there was an unbearable amount of attractiveness going on with the pre-chocolate-eating dress up requirements.

What do you love about leading?

Getting to spend every Friday night studying the Bible with the youth, seeing them learn and understand new things, make connections and grow (while I do as well), and just the general atmosphere of enjoying and desiring God and the study of His Word at CY is super awesome and exciting. =D

Get-To-Know-A-Leader



Bren Tang (Year 10 Boys)

What do you do outside of CY?

Outside of CY I go to uni where I do English Literature. The content is enjoyable, but the studying required for so many texts is long, arduous and full of peril. I'm looking for a job on the side (or maybe two jobs), but haven't found one as of yet. Beside from that, I read books, hike along treacherous paths, lead Scotch tasting nights - and then, somehow, of all the people within my school group, I'm the one who ended up with the job of solving other people's problems. Whoever thought I'd be any good at that, was quite obviously deluded (that's likely why I always look disgusted at the world).

Get-To-Know-A-CYer



Daniel (Year 8)

Funniest memory of CY

Last year our group always used to bring our own food to eat during the study. One time we got everyone to bring something and we had HEAPS of food - more than what we had for supper!

Why do you come to CY?

I come to CY every week to be able to be with my christian friends and learn about God as a group of christians.

What is one thing you have learnt at CY this term?

I've learnt heaps at CY including how the world came to be how it is now. At KYCK I learnt that we should not love the world more than we love our Father God.

Funniest memory of CY

It's hard to point to one particular moment. If you've known me long enough, you would realise I can rarely recall any particular moment, but grades 11 and 12 were fantastic because we had the very interesting dynamic of Nigel and Jade leading the group. Consistently, throughout the two years, Nigel would explain some deep and complicated theological concept, after which Jade would give us a bizarre analogy. Sometimes they made sense, sometimes you would have no idea what was going on. I recall one time, when we were looking through Ecclesiastes and Jade piped up: This is a beautiful book. It's like that of a fat lady on top of a mountain singing this one note as time passes her by (paraphrasing, accurate paraphrasing). I'm still not sure what she meant, but Nigel's face was priceless.

What do you love about leading?

Having spoken with youth leaders from various youth groups, one thing that makes CY different is its willingness to delve into God's word and the fellowship that we, together share. Leading is a pleasure because as a leader, you see first hand, growth of people by looking into God's word and by their friends whom spur each other on in fellowship. Seeing that growth, being a part of that gives you a sense of joy, and you really can't help but thank God for all that he's done in these kids' life and thank him that he allowed you to be a part of it. You in turn, as a leader, also grow a lot. And it's fun.

Get-To-Know-A-CYer



Jess (Year 11)

Funniest memory of CY

There are so many funny memories of CY! One of my earliest memories of CY was when we were playing 'we are the family of serious' and I just burst out laughing, rolling on the floor (literally). Another classic memory would be when Beth acted as the creepy girl at BGR night 2 years ago. One of my more recent memories was from last year when we

were studying Phillipians, (Phillipians 2:1-11 to be exact) and we were learning about humbling ourselves and to sum it all up Hannah said 'I'm fabulous, but everyone else is just fabulous-er'.

Why do you come to CY?

I keep coming to CY because it is a place where I can come to wind down at the end of the school week, to read the bible, learn more about God and fellowship with a whole bunch of awesome people (the fun and friends is just a big side dish of awesomeness).

What is one thing you have learnt at CY this term?

I've learnt so many things the past term... but one thing that struck me was from the study in week 6 (Genesis 11:1-9) when God had scattered the people building the tower of Babel to prevent them from uniting under themselves (self-glory). I learnt that God will scatter those that are disobedient but from the scattered nations, God will gather his people. And that he chooses to fulfil this through Jesus (Acts 2:1-21, 37-41). When God brought his people together, told them the gospel, saved them and sent them back out to evangelise. I learnt from this study that we should be united under Christ, rather than ourselves.

What Now? Next Term + Prayer Support

By Josh Lum Mow

Coming Up in Term 2

Term two is gonna be an exciting term, jam packed with interesting studies and special events. We're going to kick off the term by looking at the book of Hebrews and how we can be confident to persevere in our faith because Jesus is superior to every thing in every way.

We'll also have the opportunity to put into practice some of the things we learnt at the Evangelism topical in Term 1, as we seek to share the gospel with our friends and invite them to our special evangelistic event in week 4! The theme is "Game of Life - Make it count!" and we hope to challenge the youth and their friends about using their one remaining life to serve Jesus.

In the latter part of the term we will be thinking and praying about friends we want to bring to the annual RICE Rally in term 3. It's so important that we start thinking early and praying that God would work in our friends' hearts even before we ask them to come.

To finish off the term, the much anticipated Boy-Girl Relationships night will make a return! Yes, there will be skits, and maybe even the creepy-geeky girl will make an appearance. Most importantly however, we will learn how God wants his children to relate to their brothers and sisters in Christ, and why it's so important that we learn how to love one another God's way, rather than how the world tells us.

Term 2 is looking like a cracker of a term, and we hope you are as excited as the leaders are!

Week 1-3: Hebrews

Week 4: Evangelistic Event - 24th May

Week 5-8: Hebrews

Week 9: BGR Night - 28th June

Prayer Points

- Praise God that he has enabled us to have a really great start to the CY year in term 1. Give thanks for what we learnt from Genesis and for a fantastic time of learning and fellowship at KYCK.
- Pray for those who made commitments at KYCK. And that we as a church and youth group can encourage and keep those youth accountable to the convictions God gave them.
- Pray for the upcoming study series on Hebrews that we would see that Jesus is so much better than anything we could ever trust in, and that this would give us confidence to persevere in faith and obedience for the rest of our lives.
- Pray for our Evangelistic event in week 4 that the youth would be bold to invite their friends, and that God would enable them to come and soften their hearts to the gospel.
- Pray for the leaders as they serve week in/week out amongst uni and working life.
- Pray that the leaders would grow in their own personal walks with Christ.
- Pray for all of CY as we seek to grow up into Christ together as a mature group of Christians.