

# COMING UP AT ISLAND ECC

## TODAY Chinese New Year Lai See Packet

Chinese New Year Lai See packets will be available. Each Lai See envelope comes with a bilingual gospel tract. A pack of 20 costs HK\$20.

## TODAY Journey — Lent Devotional Book

This great daily devotional guide, produced by the pastors of the international churches in Hong Kong is available in the lift lobby, G/F. Suggested donation: HK\$20. The devotionals are based on Luke's gospel and commence on Ash Wednesday, February 13, 2013 and run through to Easter.

## FEB 17-FEB 24 The Art of Parenting Class

Can you use some assistance as a parent in how to communicate better with your children and how to handle misbehaviour and discipline? If so, plan to join the final 2 weeks of the Art of Parenting class on Sundays, 11.30am, 8/F, Classroom C. Visit <http://www.islandecc.hk/spring-classes/> for details and registration.

## FEB 22 Seminar on Cults

In recent days we have heard reports about the Eastern Lightning cult (Almighty God Church). Our speaker, Lo Sek Wai, seminar pastor of a Chinese church and an expert in the area of cults will help us understand what a cult is and the particular features of Eastern Lightning. 7.30pm, 2/F. Doors open 7pm. For more details, contact [albert@islandecc.hk](mailto:albert@islandecc.hk) or visit The City.

## FEB 23 Sports Fellowship — Wall Climbing Event

Do you envy Spider-Man's climbing skills? Come join us for some fun on the wall! 2-4pm, YMCA, near Jordan MTR. Tickets available at Connect Counter, HK\$120 each. All levels welcome. Participants join at their own risk and must be over 18 (or accompanied by guardians).

## FEB 25 Spring Alpha Course Launch 2013

Looking for answers to life? The Alpha Course is a ten-week opportunity to explore the Christian faith in a laid-back environment. It is a practical introduction to the basics of Christianity centred around a meal, a talk and small group discussion. 7pm 2/F. Visit [www.islandecc.hk/alpha](http://www.islandecc.hk/alpha) for details and to sign up.

## FEB 27 Ladies Night: Breaking The Myth of Financial Security

Join us for a night of worship, fellowship and learning with Natalie Chan who has 20 years experience in the finance industry is now focused on helping people fully integrate their faith and work. Light dinner and registration 7pm 2/F; programme starts 7.30pm. Register now and pay \$50 at the Connect Counter or online at [www.islandecc.hk/ministries/women/](http://www.islandecc.hk/ministries/women/).

## MAR 2 Door-to-Door Outreach in Sham Shui Po

Hope of the City is looking for Chinese speaking volunteers to help with a door-to-door outreach to low-income families, 9.30am-1pm. We will be partnering with YWCA to identify the needs of residents and inform them about what social services are available. Email [volunteer@hopeofthecity.com](mailto:volunteer@hopeofthecity.com).

## MAR 3-24 Answering Islam Class Launch

This four-week course on Sundays, 2.30-4.30pm, 8/F, Classroom B will equip you to communicate with Muslims effectively. It's also a pre-requisite if you plan to go on a mission trip to the Middle East this year. For more information or sign up, please visit our website: [islandecc.hk/spring-classes](http://islandecc.hk/spring-classes).



[www.islandecc.hk](http://www.islandecc.hk)

## WATCH FOR... ON THE CITY

### SIGN UP Israel Study Trip

This summer our pastors will lead a second study trip (Thursday, June 27 - Sunday, July 7), journeying in the land of Jesus to places like Bethlehem, Nazareth, Sea of Galilee and Jerusalem. The estimated cost is HK\$29,000 (all inclusive). A class on the life of Jesus on Sundays in May (at 11.30am) will help you prepare for this journey. If interested, please contact [rick@islandecc.hk](mailto:rick@islandecc.hk) for details or visit us on The City.

### NEW TO ISLAND ECC?

#### 1 MEET US AT THE CONNECT COUNTER ON 1/F

We are so glad that you're here today and would love to get to know you! The Connect Counter is located on the 1F and volunteers are there to answer any questions you might have about Island ECC and its different ministries and events.

#### 2 JOIN THE CITY

The City is the online connection point for Island ECC. It's limited to the people who attend our church and over 1,000 people are already using this fantastic tool. By creating an account and logging in, you'll have access to weekly devotionals, updates on events, the chance to connect with others and more!

#### 3 CHECK OUR WEBSITE

By visiting [www.islandecc.hk](http://www.islandecc.hk), you'll have access to information about all our ministries, as well as a broad spectrum of resources - including video podcasts of sermons.

### WHAT IT MEANS TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN

#### HE LOVES

God loves you because he chooses to. "God wasn't attracted to you and didn't choose you because you were big and important... He did it out of sheer love..." (Deut. 7:7-8). He loves you so much that...

#### HE GAVE

He gave Jesus, His one and only Son. While we do wrong things daily, Jesus is sinless. Though sinless, Jesus took our sin. He died on the cross in our place. Our response to this great gift is simple...

#### WE BELIEVE

We trust Jesus to do what we can't. We don't trust our own efforts to save us. We can't save ourselves. We don't place our trust in other people to save us. We believe in Him.

#### WE LIVE

God gives us brand-new life. We have joy because of his Spirit living within us. Little by little his Spirit changes us to be more like Jesus. No guilt in life, no fear of death, He gives life, now ... and for eternity.

You can tell God you accept Him now.

"Father, I believe you love me. You gave your one and only Son so I can live forever with you. Apart from you, I die. With you, I live. I choose life. I choose you."

photos: You Got Served, Assimilation Ministries



February 10, 2013

## Receiving Blessing

### Jacob deceives

<sup>18</sup> He went to his father and said, "My father." "Yes, my son," he answered. "Who is it?"

<sup>19</sup> Jacob said to his father, "I am Esau your firstborn. I have done as you told me. Please sit up and eat some of my game, so that you may give me your blessing."

<sup>20</sup> Isaac asked his son, "How did you find it so quickly, my son?" "The LORD your God gave me success," he replied.

<sup>21</sup> Then Isaac said to Jacob, "Come near so I can touch you, my son, to know whether you really are my son Esau or not."

<sup>22</sup> Jacob went close to his father Isaac, who touched him and said, "The voice is the voice of Jacob, but the hands are the hands of Esau."

<sup>23</sup> He did not recognize him, for his hands were hairy like those of his brother Esau; so he proceeded to bless him.

### Isaac blesses

<sup>24</sup> "Are you really my son Esau?" he asked. "I am," he replied.

<sup>25</sup> Then he said, "My son, bring me some of your game to eat, so that I may give you my blessing." Jacob brought it to him and he ate; and he brought some wine and he drank.

<sup>26</sup> Then his father Isaac said to him, "Come here, my son, and kiss me."

<sup>27</sup> So he went to him and kissed him. When Isaac caught the smell of his clothes, he blessed him and said, "Ah, the smell of my son is like the smell of a field that the LORD has blessed."

### Esau returns

<sup>30</sup> After Isaac finished blessing him, and Jacob had scarcely left his father's presence, his brother Esau came in from hunting.

<sup>32</sup> His father Isaac asked him, "Who are you?" "I am your son," he answered, "your firstborn, Esau."

<sup>33</sup> Isaac trembled violently and said, "Who was it, then, that hunted game and brought it to me? I ate it just before you came and I blessed him—and indeed he will be blessed!"

<sup>34</sup> When Esau heard his father's words, he burst out with a loud and bitter cry and said to his father, "Bless me—me too, my father!"

<sup>35</sup> But he said, "Your brother came deceitfully and took your blessing."

Genesis 27:18-23, 24-27, 30, 32-35

### The power of blessing

### The usual path for blessing