



AN INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE FOR BRISBANE ANGLICANS

SEMINAR OVERVIEW

The importance of the Bible for Christians can hardly be overstated. But that does not mean we all find it easy to read.

We know there is a high correlation between healthy churches and high levels of Bible reading. Yet data from the Natural Church Development (NCD) research process in our Diocese is showing that few Anglicans in Brisbane have any depth of knowledge of the Bible; for the most part we do not read or study the Bible regularly; and most of us have little sense of encountering the reality of God in and through Scripture. Consequently few Anglicans speak passionately about our experience of God or feel comfortable speaking about our faith with others.

Our knowledge of the Bible has to go beyond fascinating facts and quotable quotes. We need enough of the big picture to make sense of the smaller passages, and sufficient of the detail to get beyond vague generalisations.

BIBLE360 offers a place to start the adventure of reading the Bible, or to pick up the journey again if it has been a while since you did much Bible reading. It starts with the basics but ends with the big picture.

In this special one-day seminar created especially for Anglicans in the Diocese of Brisbane, you will get the basic information needed to read the Bible with confidence, practical tips on choosing a Bible, help to get started with a personal Bible reading plan—and a support system to hold you accountable for your own Bible reading goals.

THE FORMAT:

The content of the one-day seminar will be structured around three sessions:

SESSION 1 // THE WORLD BEHIND THE BIBLE.

What was it like “back then” when the Bible was being written, and how did we come to get the Bible we now have?

SESSION 2 // THE WORLD WITHIN THE BIBLE.

How is the Bible organised, and what is the grand narrative of the Bible? Who are some of the key characters, and what are the major groups of biblical literature?

SESSION 3 // OUR WORLD HERE AND NOW.

How do we read the Bible that we have? How can ancient wisdom and modern perspectives combine to assist us in reading the Bible with ears tuned for what the Spirit is saying to the church? How is our reading of the Bible influenced by the faith we share and contemporary challenges we face? What are the big ideas of the Bible, and how does it all hang together despite the diversity of different documents written over several hundred years?



THE SCHEDULE

Presenters will include staff from St Francis College together with other people from across the diocese so that we draw on a wide variety of experience and perspectives. It is hoped that the materials developed in the first phase of the program will then be published as a resource for others to deliver in parishes and deaneries. Feedback from participants will be essential in achieving this goal.

AUGUST 4: *Brisbane (St Francis College)*

AUGUST 18: *Deception Bay (Freshwater)*

AUGUST 25: *Gold Coast North (Holy Rood Family Centre)*

SEPTEMBER 8: *Chinchilla (St Cecilia's)*

SEPTEMBER 22: *Kawana Waters (Holy Trinity)*

OCTOBER 6: *Maryborough (St Paul's)*

OCTOBER 20: *Ipswich (St Paul's)*

NOVEMBER 3: *Bundaberg West (Good Shepherd)*

NOVEMBER 10: *Brisbane (St Francis College)*

NOVEMBER 24: *Goondiwindi (Holy Trinity)*

REGISTER NOW

You can register for one of these sessions during Synod by going to the MEC/PMC resource display. Alternatively, you can register by contacting the PMC office on (07) 3835 2284 or by emailing register@bible360.org.au

Each seminar will begin at 9.00am and finish by 5.00pm. Refreshments will be provided for morning and afternoon tea, but participants are responsible for their own lunches.

Cost: There is no charge for participants during the initial development phase of the project.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit www.bible360.org.au for more information about this special program, links to resources, and ideas for using the Bible more effectively in churches, families, and everyday life.

THE TEAM BEHIND BIBLE 360

BIBLE360 has been developed at St Francis Theological College as a service to the Diocese in response to the Archbishop's Synod Challenge for every member of the Anglican Church in the Brisbane Diocese to engage more deeply with the Bible in 2012 and 2013.

The primary development of the project has been undertaken by Greg Jenks and Adam Lowe with advice and input from other staff members at the MEC and PMC.



GREG JENKS

ACADEMIC DEAN
(ST FRANCIS COLLEGE)

Greg Jenks teaches biblical languages, introductory classes on the Bible, and advanced biblical interpretation subjects at the College. He has had a long involvement with adult faith formation, and was the principal developer of the Archbishop's Certificate Program that was widely used in the Diocese and around Australia in the 1990s. Greg is author of 'The Once and Future Bible' (Wipf & Stock, 2011) and has recently edited 'The Once and Future Scriptures' (Polebridge Press, forthcoming).



ADAM LOWE

SESSIONAL LECTURER
(ST FRANCIS COLLEGE)

Adam Lowe teaches Introduction to NT Studies as well as the Synoptic Gospels classes. Adam recently completed a Master of Arts in Theology and Religion at Durham University in the UK. He is currently the Assistant Minister at the Anglican Church of Noosa.