The Bible in the Life of the Church

The Bible in the Life of the Church is a project commissioned by the Anglican Consultative Council in 2009. The aim is to explore how we, as Anglicans, actually use the Bible. The project has already involved groups around the world engaging in detailed Bible studies and reporting their results. In order to spread the project more widely, we are asking as many people as possible to complete a short questionnaire. Your help with this project would be greatly appreciated.

Please take a few moments to complete this questionnaire, which is designed to find out what you believe about the Bible generally and one passage in particular. The questionnaire is anonymous and the answers you give will be treated confidentially, so you can feel free to express your opinions. There are no “right” or “wrong” answers. We are interested in what YOU feel and believe.

For most questions all you need to do is circle or tick a single response. It’s very important that you answer **ALL THE QUESTIONS IN EACH SECTION** even if it is hard to decide. Don’t spend too long on each one: your first answer is usually the best.

Thank you for your time and help.

**IMPORTANT!** If you have been given this by your church, please complete it and return it as instructed. They should give you their postal/zip code to write on the line below:

Country:______________ Church’s postal or zip code: ________________

You can complete the survey online by going to:  
http://tinyurl.com/bilcsurvey
SECTION 1

In this section you are asked to read through a story from the Bible and answer questions about it.

When Jesus, Peter, James and John came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and some scribes arguing with them. When the whole crowd saw Jesus, they were immediately overcome with awe, and they ran forward to greet him. He asked them, "What are you arguing about with them?"

Someone from the crowd answered him, "Teacher, I brought you my son; he has a spirit that makes him unable to speak; and whenever it seizes him, it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked your disciples to cast it out, but they could not do so."

He answered them, "You faithless generation, how much longer must I be among you? How much longer must I put up with you? Bring him to me." And they brought the boy to him. When the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth.

Jesus asked the father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. It has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you are able to do anything, have pity on us and help us."

Jesus said to him, "If you are able! – All things can be done for the one who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out, "I believe; help my unbelief!"

When Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You spirit that keeps this boy from speaking and hearing, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again!"

After crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he was able to stand.

When he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" He said to them, "This kind can come out only through prayer."
Have you heard this story before?

Yes ☐       No ☐       I'm not sure ☐

Please read each sentence carefully and see if you agree or disagree with it. Then circle a response to EACH sentence.

If you **Agree Strongly**, put a ring round ________________

If you **Agree**, put a ring round ________________

If you are **Not Certain**, put a ring round ________________

If you **Disagree**, put a ring round ________________

If you **Disagree Strongly**, put a ring round ________________

---

The boy had epilepsy ________________

The boy was possessed by an evil spirit ________________

I trust what the Bible says about the boy’s illness ________________

I find this story hard to relate to my life ________________

I cannot imagine this happening today ________________

This story makes sense to me, even in our culture ______

This story has little to say to our society today ______

This is the straightforward reporting of a miraculous healing ___

These people are just like us ________________

People understood the world differently in those days ______
These questions explore what you might learn from the passage.

For EACH question please circle the letter of the ONE answer (a, b or c) that you prefer.

This story shows us.....

1. a. Why the disciples were not always able to heal people.
   b. Why people are not always healed when we pray for them today.
   c. The writer’s fellow Christians could not always heal people.

2. a. The writer believed that Jesus was able to perform miracles.
   b. Jesus was renowned in his lifetime as a powerful worker of miracles.
   c. Jesus performs miracles today.

3. a. God encourages us today when our faith is weak.
   b. Jesus encouraged the father’s weak faith.
   c. The writer encouraged his readers to have faith in Jesus.

4. a. Jesus overcame the people’s fear of evil.
   b. The writer was trying to dispel the fear of evil in the early church.
   c. Through Jesus, we need not fear evil today.

5. a. Jesus was sometimes angry with the faithless people he met.
   b. The writer wanted to denounce his faithless generation.
   c. God is sometimes angry at our lack of faith today.

6. a. The writer believed that prayer could exorcise demons.
   b. Prayer is vital for a successful healing ministry today.
   c. Jesus believed that his disciples must pray if they were to heal.

7. a. The mind of the original writer.
   b. The attitude of Jesus to his generation.
   c. What it means to be a faithful disciple today.

8. a. The compassion Jesus had for the sick and demon-possessed.
   b. That we should have compassion for the needy people we meet.
   c. The writer had compassion for the sick and demon-possessed.
**SECTION 2**

*This section asks about your beliefs about the Bible.*

*Please answer ALL the questions.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Belief Statement</th>
<th>Agree Strongly</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Not Certain</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree Strongly</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>If you <strong>Agree Strongly</strong>, put a ring round</td>
<td></td>
<td>A</td>
<td>NC</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>DS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If you <strong>Agree</strong>, put a ring round</td>
<td></td>
<td>A</td>
<td>NC</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>DS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If you are <strong>Not Certain</strong>, put a ring round</td>
<td></td>
<td>A</td>
<td>NC</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>DS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If you <strong>Disagree</strong>, put a ring round</td>
<td></td>
<td>A</td>
<td>NC</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>DS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If you <strong>Disagree Strongly</strong>, put a ring round</td>
<td></td>
<td>A</td>
<td>NC</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>DS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Bible contains truth, but it isn’t always true ______________________ AS A NC D DS

I have never found the Bible to be wrong about anything __________ AS A NC D DS

Some parts of the Bible are more true than others ______________________ AS A NC D DS

Christians can learn about God from the writings of other faiths ____ AS A NC D DS

Once you start doubting bits of the Bible, you end up doubting it all __ AS A NC D DS

You can’t pick and choose which bits of the Bible to believe ________ AS A NC D DS

The Bible is the final authority in all matters of faith and conduct ____ AS A NC D DS

The people who wrote the Bible created stories to explain things they didn’t understand ______________________________ AS A NC D DS

If the Bible says something happened, then I believe that it did _____ AS A NC D DS

I use the Bible as the only reliable guide for life _________________ AS A NC D DS

The Bible contains some human errors ______________________________ AS A NC D DS

Science shows that some things in the Bible cannot have happened __ AS A NC D DS

5
### SECTION 3

*In this section you have to say if you believe that a particular Bible event actually happened, or whether you think it’s a fictional story.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>DH</th>
<th>PH</th>
<th>NC</th>
<th>PS</th>
<th>DS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>David killed a giant called Goliath</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jonah was in the belly of a fish (or whale) for three days</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jesus’ mother was a virgin when she conceived Jesus</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moses went to Pharaoh and threatened terrible plagues</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noah built an ark and filled it with animals</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adam and Eve lived in a garden called Eden</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jesus fed 5000 people with two fish and five loaves</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joshua destroyed the walls of Jericho</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jesus healed a man who was blind from birth</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jesus calmed a storm by commanding the wind and waves to be still</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jesus was transfigured on a mountain with Moses and Elijah</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jesus turned water into wine</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jesus rose from the dead in bodily form</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jesus healed a paralytic lowered through a roof</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jesus ascended into heaven</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
This section asks for some important information about you that will help us to understand your answers more fully.

Where are you from?
Church: ________________
City/town: ________________
State/county: ________________
Country: ________________

Which of these best describes the area in which you live?
Rural □ Suburban □ Urban □

Your age:
18-29 □ 30s □ 40s □ 50s □
60s □ 70s □ 80s □ 90s □

Your sex:
Male □ Female □

Are you ordained?
No □ Deacon □ Priest □ Bishop □

If you ARE ordained, are you in:
Parish ministry □ Diocesan ministry □
Chaplaincy □ Retired □
Other □

If you are NOT ordained, are you a:
(Please tick all that apply):
Lay Reader/preacher □
Other licensed minister □
Church warden □
Other church officer □
Sunday school teacher □
Other children/youth worker □

On average, how often do you attend a service in church?
Hardly ever □
At least six times a year □
Once a month □
Once a week □
More than once a week □

How often do you read the Bible by yourself?
Never □
Hardly ever □
Once a month □
Once or twice a week □
Every day □

How often do you pray by yourself?
Never □
Hardly ever □
Once a month □
Once or twice a week □
Every day □

Please indicate the HIGHEST level of education you have had:
No formal qualifications □
School level to 16 years □
School level to 18 years □
University certificate/diploma □
Undergraduate degree □
Postgraduate degree □

Have you had any training in Theology or Biblical Studies?
(Please tick all that apply):
No formal training □
Programmes in school □
Church or diocesan courses □
University certificate/diploma □
Undergraduate degree □
Postgraduate degree □

Please turn over for the last page!
And finally….

Where would you locate your faith position?

(Please circle ONE number on EACH line that represents roughly where you belong):

- Liberal 3 2 1 0 1 2 3
- Not charismatic 3 2 1 0 1 2 3
- Catholic 3 2 1 0 1 2 3
- Conservative
- Charismatic
- Evangelical

How important is the Bible in helping you personally:

(Please circle ONE number on EACH line):

**To understand your faith?**
Not important at all 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 Utterly essential

**In your spiritual life?**
Not important at all 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 Utterly essential

**To decide the right way to live?**
Not important at all 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 Utterly essential

**To know the truth about God?**
Not important at all 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 Utterly essential

Anything else you would like to add?

Thank you for helping with this survey!

Survey administered by: The Revd Dr Andrew Village, York St John University, YORK, YO31 7EX, UK.