

Information Sheet: How to start if our knowledge of the Bible is poor

How do you encourage people to engage with Scripture when they might feel awkward because of they think they lack knowledge of the Bible? They may have attended church for many years but they do not wish to have their biblical ignorance shown up. These resources were designed to help address these kinds of concerns.

Bible Challenge – an initiative started by one parish in the USA that challenges congregations to read either the whole Bible in a year or large sections of it over Lent or Advent. The challenge came with great support from the parish Rector and weekly encouragement to keep going. But the results of the challenge went a great further than just improving Bible knowledge. Three important things emerged from the challenge:

1. It offered an approach or method of engagement with Scripture that makes it unique.
2. Those participating found that by reading or hearing complete sections of the Bible on a daily basis they saw the BIG message of Scripture that is often missed if we only hear Sunday lessons.
3. Finally, and most importantly, those taking the *challenge* to read the Bible everyday discovered changes in the lives of those participating and the life of the church they belong to.

To find out more details look at the [Information Sheet \[Folder E8\]](#)

BIBLE360 – an outline of a day courses created by the Diocese of Brisbane, Australia that explores how the Bible fits together and how we can engage more deeply with it. In commending the course, the Archbishop of the Diocese, Philip Aspinall says this, *"I have to say that I'm absolutely thrilled at what's been achieved during the brief life of the BIBLE360 program. What we've been part of is the launching of a long-term initiative to help Anglicans approach the scriptures with their brains switched on and to find in those ancient texts food for the soul, wisdom for living in the 21st century. What we're after is generations of Anglicans who are biblically literate, thoughtful about faith, spiritually perceptive and energetic and generous workers in God's mission."*

To find out more details look at the [Information Sheet \[Folder E9\]](#)

Good Book Club – How might you encourage a whole congregation to read the whole Bible in a year? One way one congregation sought to do this was by incorporating into its main Sunday worship a programme of sermons and readings that took the congregation from Genesis to Revelation in 12 months.

The **Sunday themes** took the congregation through the Bible in book order. Each week those attending were encouraged to read sections of Scripture for themselves with the **weekly reading assignment**.

To find out more details look at the [Information Sheet \[Folder E10\]](#)

