

Information Sheet: BIBLE360

How can we motivate people to read their Bible more?

The Diocese of Brisbane, Australia wanted to find an answer to this question but to do so in an encouraging and helpful way. What they came up with was BIBLE360 – what is now well tested materials for a one-day seminar providing an introduction to the Bible for people of all ages and backgrounds.

It offers a place to start the adventure of reading the Bible or of picking it up again if it has been a while. The seminar provides:

- *an opportunity to engage with others*
- *an understanding of the history of the Bible*
- *the basic information needed to read the Bible with confidence*
- *a brief overview of the Old and New Testaments*
- *practical tips on choosing a Bible and other resources, and*
- *help to get started with a personal Bible reading plan.*

The basic objective of BIBLE360 is:

- to motivate people to read their Bible more and
- to participate actively in a small group that engages intentionally with Scripture.

BIBLE360 also aims to help participants understand:

- The significance of the Bible as a gift and an immense spiritual treasure in the life of the Church.
- That behind the modern English Bible lies a rich and varied body of ancient manuscripts used by Bible translators.
- The “Old Testament” as the Jewish Scriptures.
- The Apocrypha has an important place for Anglicans.
- The New Testament, as a distinctively Christian part of the Bible, with a focus on the significance of Jesus for all humanity.
- The variety of literary forms within the Bible, and how, when reading a passage we respect and engage with these different genres.
- The tools the Church has developed to encourage a deeper engagement with Scripture.
- The value of imagination as a way of getting ‘inside’ a text and encountering multiple levels of meaning for us today.
- The ways in which the Anglican Church affirms and celebrates the role of Scripture.
- The variety of resources and aids available in print and digital form that assist individuals and groups to engage with Scripture.
- Ways in which we can read the Bible prayerfully as individuals or in small groups.



What effect has BIBLE360 had on those who have attended the seminar?

Archbishop Phillip Aspinall [Archbishop of Brisbane and former Primate of Australia]: *"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."*

Bishop Jonathan Holland [Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Brisbane]: *"BIBLE 360 has stirred many to once again open their bible and read it. It has given them some tools for better understanding the nature of the Bible and how God works through our reading to transform us more into the likeness of our Lord."*

What the participants said (from more than 1200 people who've done the course so far)

96% said the program met their expectations
 98% said they'd recommend it to a friend
 91% said they were more excited about the Bible
 93% said they planned to read the Bible more as a result
 72% actually wrote a personal bible-reading plan
 60% of people not already in a bible reading group said they planned to join one.

Offering this resource to the wider Anglican Communion

The Diocese of Brisbane is happy to offer this resource more widely to the Anglican Communion. If provinces, dioceses or parishes are interested in the material, they would discuss some small proportionate licensing amount that was appropriate.

They are also looking to upgrade the material with video segments in the near future, though for now, people could access the original participants' and leaders' materials along with promotional resources as well. The diocese are also about to expand their leaders' material so they can share the insights they have gained so far in organising these seminars.

For further information about BIBLE360: www.formedfaith.org [Click on **BIBLE360**]

For further details about using BIBLE360 in your situation, contact:

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