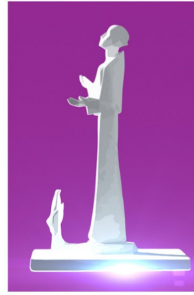


EXPLORING THE BIBLE

a St Francis College short course



Theme 1: A place to start

Question 1c. What is the Big Picture message of the Bible?

1. 'God is, God created, God is with us, God is for us and nothing can separate us from the love of God.'
2. The Archbishop's summary would make a great slogan. If you worked at 'Big Picture Advertising' how could you use this to advertise the Bible, to encourage others to engage with it?
3. Does this match with your understanding of the Bible and its purpose? How would you describe the big picture of the Bible? Does it have a unifying idea in your experience? Does it matter to you if it doesn't?

Archbishop Phillip Aspinall

I think the big picture message of the Bible is God. God is. The opening words of the Bible are 'in the beginning God', God created the heavens and the earth, so its God is. I'd say that's the first big thing.

And then as the Bible unfolds we discover that God is with us and God is for us and then you get to the climax in St Paul where he says, 'I am convinced that there is nothing in all creation that can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.' (Romans 8:38-39)

So that's the big story I think and all the stories in between are about the struggles of God's people over centuries to come to know that and accept it. God is, God is with us, and God is for us. I think that's what the story tells us.