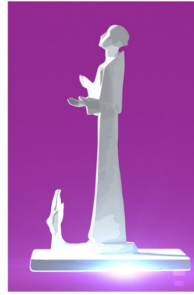


# EXPLORING THE BIBLE

a St Francis College short course



## Theme 2: How to approach the Bible

### 2c: How did the Bible get the chapters and verses?

#### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Ever encouraged to learn 'memory verses' as a child? Do you remember some of those? Think of a time when a particular verse has helped you in a challenging time.
2. Why not do some research and find the full story of the development of chapters and verses in the Bible. Wikipedia is a good place to start.
3. In what ways are the chapters and verses useful tools for readers of the Bible?
4. In what ways would the reading experience be different if the verses and chapters were not there?

#### TRANSCRIPT

The Rev'd Canon Sarah Plowman

Director of Discernment

When the Bible was first written it didn't have any chapters, it didn't have any verses it didn't have any divisions, they were just books that were written from start to finish which is fine if there's only one copy of any given book, or two that may be written by the same person, with the same sized handwriting and the same kind of paper.

But as the Bible was reproduced back in the early days by hand, no two versions of it were the same. They had the same words, but the page sizes were different, the handwriting was different and so two people wanting to talk about the same topic would go to the book of Exodus but flick through till they found the same text.

So in about the 13<sup>th</sup> century they divided each of the books in the Bible into chapters so it made it easier for people to navigate it and to find the same things. Then later on, particularly when more and more Bibles were becoming available to people, to find individual sections or individual sentences, perhaps individual things that Jesus said, they divided it into sentences and gave them verse numbers so that no matter where your Bible was printed, no matter how big the pages were, no matter if it was thick or thin, big or small you could everyone could turn to the part and know what the person was talking about...simply about ease of navigation and its worked really well I think.