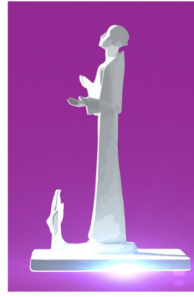


EXPLORING THE BIBLE

a St Francis College short course



Theme 5: The Bible's Big Themes

Question 5f. Who does the Bible say we are? People I mean, in relation to God, each other and everything?

1. The Bible is one source of information and inspiration about humanity's relationship with the Divine. We can be inspired by its poetry and metaphor to understand something of the nature of our part in the world. Where else do you find information and inspiration about what humans are and our role in the universe?
2. What evidence is there for the existence of a soul? What role does consciousness have in our human potential? Is there evidence that we are created in God's image?
3. If humanity has a special place in God's creation, what is our responsibility for the whole of creation? What Biblical stories and characters have inspired you in this?

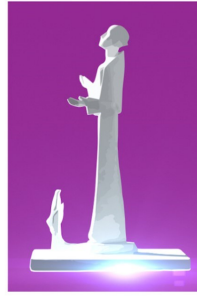
Archbishop Phillip Aspinall

The Bible says, first and foremost, we are God's creatures, that God created us. It says that God created us in God's image, so there is something about human being that reflects the nature of God. The Bible tells us that human beings make stupid decisions that cause harm to themselves and the others and God's world, but God does not leave us in that mess that we create by wrongly using our free will through sin.

God comes to us and lifts us out of that mess we make for ourselves and works within us, and among us to transform us and to bring about a new creation so that that's the main trajectory of the Scripture. It goes from the original creation to a new creation which is brought into being by the

EXPLORING THE BIBLE

a St Francis College short course



death and resurrection of Christ where all things are made new.

So that's a great and hope filled thing. No matter how wrong we get it, God does not leave us there, but steps in to redeem and recreate.