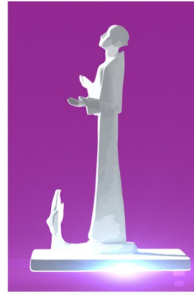


EXPLORING THE BIBLE

a St Francis College short course



Theme 6: How the Bible still matters

6b: Is the Bible still relevant?

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What elements of Sarah's response resonate with you?
2. In what other ways have you known the Bible to be relevant, perhaps in your own life, or in the lives of others?
3. If someone asked you at a barbeque, 'What do people see in the Bible?' what might you say in response?
4. Keep an eye out while you watch television, or read, or listen this week. Take a note of the times when Biblical texts, themes or characters are mentioned in everyday life. Why does this happen (or why doesn't it)?

TRANSCRIPT

The Rev'd Canon Sarah Plowman

Director of Discernment

The Bible is still relevant. The reason that it's still relevant is because it's the story of people. Human beings don't change. Human beings are the same whether you live in Australia or you live on the other side of the world or if you lived a thousand years ago.

There's something about human nature which is universal and the stories in the Bible are first and foremost stories about people. I was once talking to someone who was not a Christian and he said to me, 'You talk about these people in the Bible like you know them,

like they are your friends or your family.' In a way they are, because I have a story about my friends my family I've known in my life. But when I read the Bible the people in there come alive to me and so their story is a bit like my story. They become part of who I am so when I'm faced with a difficulty, I don't just have to look back at my own life to find a story that will help me make sense of it. I can look back to the story of God's people right to the very beginning and say, 'Well where in the Bible did somebody face this particular challenge?' and more often than not there will be someone whose story is told honestly and without rose coloured glasses. I go, 'Wow there's a way of looking at this that I didn't see before.'

That's why its relevant.

Not necessarily because there are rules in the Bible which show me what to do. It's not that black and white, but there are stories of people who face similar things to me and I can learn from them. I can make their story part of mine, it's an extension if you like of the story of human beings. I don't have a story that is connected to country the way indigenous people do - that would be a wonderful thing to have in your life, a beautiful rich thing I don't have that so I've kind of adopted the stories in the Bible as my stories of where I come from simply because I'm human.