

EXPLORING THE BIBLE

a St Francis College short course



Theme 6: How the Bible Still Matters

Question 6d. How do we use the Bible to make decisions about stuff that is not mentioned in there?

1. The Bible moves along deep trajectories – to do with love, justice, equality, empowerment and liberation. Can you identify some more?
2. The Bible contains ancient texts that were not self-help manuals. Do you agree with the idea that knowing it well can provide a way through tough situations? How might that work?
3. In what ways has your appreciation of the Bible provided inspiration, reassurance or understanding for you in your times of need?

Archbishop Phillip Aspinall

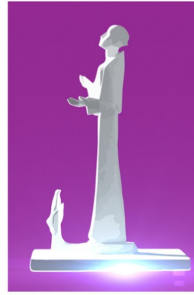
A lot of a lot of the issues we face today were not directly relevant in the times that the Scriptures were written. They didn't have all the techno-scientific stuff that we have, and all the ethical questions that that raises.

But the really big questions are the same now as they were then. They come in in different contexts, in different shapes and forms. But the Bible tells us that human beings, human lives are infinitely valuable and if you keep that in mind that helps us face some of today's dilemmas. The Bible tells us the earth and all that is in it belongs to God so that helps us to value God's creation and not treat it as disposable.

So those ultimate values, those big themes those big convictions that we find coming through the pages of the Scriptures are still relevant today and help us think through today's questions as well.

EXPLORING THE BIBLE

a St Francis College short course



The Scriptures also tell us paradoxical things that are as true now as they ever were. Jesus teaches us that if you want to actually find the deepest meaning your life can have then give your life away. Make your life a gift to other people in loving service and by giving your life away you actually find it.

John Roundhill

There's a lot of stuff that the Bible does talk about. We can find out about issues to do with justice and love and aggression and so on within the Bible. But the Bible doesn't talk about a whole load of other things. Climate change might be one example. It doesn't have a concept of CO2 in the Bible. It doesn't have a concept of Covid-19 in the Bible.

So how do you use the Bible on issues that we don't actually find in the Bible? Well, one thing we don't do I think is try and just find a verse and say "Oh I've got the answer to this it's in John chapter 4 verse 3". I don't think we do that.

What we should do is actually have a good sense of what the Bible's talking about and look at the deep trajectories, these kind of places where the Bible's pointing to and firing off to. These are to do with love and justice, and equality and empowerment and liberation.

And you see how those interplay when you read the whole text of the Bible. So it's actually a tough answer: we actually have to have a good handle on the Bible to actually answer questions that are not in the Bible.