

them and in turn should tell their children. In this way they also would put their trust in God and not forget what he has done, but always obey his commandments . . .

(Psalm 78: 1-7, Bible Society GNB)

Did any part of this reading make an impression on you, or draw your attention?

'teaching'; 'mysteries'; 'wise sayings'; 'laws'; 'commandments' - which of these best describe the Bible for you, or would you prefer another word?

The words 'teach' and 'learn' are used - does your church place enough emphasis on 'teaching/learning' about the Bible?

Think how your church could share the Bible's story with the next generation.

(ii) *Open the Book*

The extract (above) from the Bible has inspired *Open the Book*, a scheme that involves groups of church members going into schools to read and to act Bible stories for children. The scheme aims to 'bring the Bible to life for every child in primary school.' Create a similar statement that sums up your church's intentions for sharing the Bible. Remember to include your intention (what?) and target (who?). For example,

..... Church will enable (who?)
to (do what?)

What about joining the *Open the Book* scheme? For more information visit the Bible Society website.

(iii) Write a Twitter message (140 characters) about the value of the Bible.

Union of Welsh Independents



The Bible in church life today

Year 1, Part 2

How to use the material

It is suggested that the discussions based on the contents of the second film in this series be divided into 4 sessions. The questions for each session are on pages 2 and 3.

Session A: Watch the entire film and discuss the questions on *The Bible at the Centre*

Session B: Watch the episode, *Discussing the Bible*, and answer the questions.

Session C: Watch the episode, *How to be creative with the Bible*, and discuss the questions.

Session D: Watch the episode, *How can the Bible enliven our churches?*, and discuss the questions.

The individual episodes are accessible from the main menu of the DVD. Please use the four cursor 'arrows' to select options. For those using the downloaded version, the episodes are available from our website, www.annibynwyr.cymru/videos

Pages 3 and 4 of this leaflet contain additional material to use during the sessions. Before concluding each session, it would be useful for the group to discuss the question:

What can we do, as a church, following this discussion?

Questions for discussion

Session A: The Bible at the centre

- 1) How is the Bible used in your church?
- 2) Do any particular stories or characters in the Bible inspire or challenge you within the church's current situation?
- 3) How important is seeing the Bible through the eyes of others and how much emphasis is placed on this in your church?
- 4) Why do so many struggle to see the relevance of the Bible to their own lives today?

Session B: Discussing the Bible

- 1) Has your personal faith changed or developed over time? If so, in what ways and what was responsible for that?
- 2) What is the value of communicating the Christian message through websites or social media such as *Facebook* and *Twitter*? Are there any dangers involved?
- 3) What is responsible for the fall in the number of adult Sunday Schools, and could anything else take their place?
- 4) Is there too much emphasis on preaching the Bible at the expense of presenting it in other ways?

Session C: How to be creative with the Bible

- 1) When was the last time your church tried to do something new or different, and what was the response?
- 2) In what ways has your church changed for the better during your time as a member?
- 3) Can you think of examples of innovation within services that have moved you?
- 4) How do your buildings prevent you from trying new things?

Session D: How can the Bible enliven our churches?

- 1) How could modern technology enrich the enjoyment of the Bible and worship in your church?

- 2) Do you have any experience of following a course like *Alpha*? What are the strengths and weaknesses of these courses?
- 3) Do the services in your church give people sufficient opportunity to exchange experiences and express their faith?
- 4) In what ways do you think churches have benefited from the Year of 'Beibl Byw' (Living Bible)?

What people say about the Bible

'For every 100 people, one reads the Bible and the other 99 read the Christian.'

'Whatever their size or location, all churches must give their members an opportunity to read and discuss the Bible together. That's the only way people will realize how relevant the Bible is'

'Any innovation is worth trying, as long as it respects the Word and enhances people's understanding of the Word'

'The Bible can be a pair of glasses or a blindfold.'

'If people argue that Christians shouldn't mix the Gospel and politics, then their Bible is quite different to mine!'

'The appropriate reaction to the Bible is not an improvement in knowledge but a change in our way of life.'

(i) Read aloud the following extract:

Listen, my people, to my teaching, and pay attention to what I say. I am going to use wise sayings and explain mysteries from the past, things we have heard and known, things that our ancestors told us. We will not keep them from our children; we will tell the next generation about the LORD's power and his great deeds and the wonderful things he has done. He gave laws to the people of Israel. He instructed our ancestors to teach his laws to their children, so that the next generation might learn