

News from Bible Society

Transmission is provided free by Bible Society as part of our mission to equip the church to live out the Bible's message. We also work creatively and with passion to show that the Bible resonates with issues today – and to make Scriptures available where there are none.

James Catford

Group Chief Executive



Few can have missed that this year is the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible. Bible Society has sponsored two organisations to celebrate – the King James Bible Trust chaired by Frank Field MP, and Biblefresh in association with Evangelical Alliance. But here are some of the projects that are coming from Bible Society in this special year:



The 'H' Word

'H+ is a much needed course.'

'I'm excited at the prospect of taking H+ further locally.'

'Please don't dumb H+ down – there are other courses that do so.'

This is what church leaders said after attending Bible Society's recent hermeneutics training event, H+. Over two days, they worked through our newly developed, ten-session, Ordinary Hermeneutics course, learning how to pass fundamental, interpretative skills onto their congregations.

People soon realised that H+ was not just another resource, not just another Bible study, not something they'd done earlier. H+ challenges assumptions, opens new ways of engaging with Scripture, provides a framework for spiritual growth that is based on sound Bible literacy.

To ensure that it would work for people from various social and educational backgrounds and church traditions, we previously tested H+ among ten pilot groups across the church and socio-demographic spectrum. There was no doubt: H+ was meeting a fundamental need. Most churchgoers lacked even the most basic hermeneutical skills, such as appreciating historical context, authorial intent, reader horizon, or text genre.

Following the extensive field-testing, H+ is about to be made available nationwide to church and leaders house-groups, or anyone who is involved in teaching the Bible.

If you think you might like to become an H+ course facilitator, why not attend one of our training events? Dates and venues will be announced shortly at www.hplus.org.uk

Meanwhile, if you have any questions concerning H+, email Michael Pfundner, Bible Society's Church Programme Manager, at michael.pfundner@biblesociety.org.uk

**BIBLE
SUNDAY
2011**



**Bible Sunday
2011 –
23rd October**

Celebrating The People's Bible yesterday, today, tomorrow – churches up and down the country are preparing to celebrate Bible Sunday on 23rd October. This year's theme, inspired by a national return to the Bible in the Book of Nehemiah, is about celebrating the Bible as a gift for everyone.

Ben Whitnall, Bible Sunday project manager, said, 'The Bible is for all people, something that can be communicated in the public square. That goes for Ezra, reading it from a platform in Nehemiah's time, to Bible Society's work in film, media and the arts today.'

The free Bible Sunday materials include a sermon by Joel Edwards, of Micah Challenge, as well as prayers, drama sketches, all-age service ideas and youth materials. These can be downloaded online from biblesunday.org or call Bible Society on 01793 418 222.

Please invite your church to recognise and celebrate the transformational impact of the Bible with this year's free Bible Sunday materials. If you have not done so in the past, then the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible is a great year to get involved.

Paula Gooder

**B
BIBLE
SOCIETY**



Mystic? Theologian? Chauvinist?

Don't miss out on a highlight in this year's calendar: Bible scholar and author Dr Paula Gooder (www.gooder.me.uk) will be coming to Bible Society to address some age-old and timeless questions surrounding the apostle Paul.

Paula has the rare gift of making the complex accessible. Come and hear this extraordinary thinker and speaker.

**Monday 17th October
9.30 – 4.30pm
Gateway Church
Swindon, SN5 7AR**

Bookings have begun and to secure your place (£20 per person including refreshments and a buffet lunch), please phone 01793 418222 now for further information.