



Bibles in Schools

Overview

Bible Society Australia seeks to serve and equip volunteer teachers and instructors participating in Special Religious Education (SRE) and Christian Religious Instruction (CRI) by providing them with a Scripture Grant for Bibles in Schools to be used during lessons.



The Need

Many public school students in Australia lack familiarity with the Bible, with a substantial number of the 2.6 million students having never been exposed to the narrative of God found in its pages. For some, the relevance of the Bible to their lives and the world around them remains unexplored, as no one has guided them in understanding its significance.

Nevertheless, certain public schools offer religious education classes facilitated by volunteers from churches. Bible Society Australia is dedicated to supporting these committed volunteers in conveying the message of the Bible to Australian children. This commitment is manifested through the provision of free class sets of Bibles, made possible by the Bibles in Schools grant. This grant empowers Scripture Teachers to afford their students the unique opportunity to hold, navigate, and read a Bible during their classes in public schools.

2.6m

public school students in Australia

45%

of Australians own a Bible

<32%

of Generation Y's own a Bible —
that is, less than 1 in 3

“Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful!”

Joshua 1:8, NIV

Goals

The goal of this project is to help SRE teachers and CRI instructors to Open The Bible with their students, helping them to discover and engage with God's word. This grant aims to resource Scripture teachers with God's word.

In 2024, Bible Society Australia will again supply Class Sets of the CEV Big Rescue Bible (for Primary schools) or the CEV Youth Bibles (for High Schools). These class sets can be for any number of students and are kept by volunteer teachers and instructors for many years, to Open The Bible with students during class.

This project will also supply Borrow Bibles – The Jesus Storybook Bible (suitable for K-3 classes). Borrow Bibles come as a set of three per class for weekly borrowing. Equipped with protective plastic pouches for longevity, and stickers to help prompt returns, they are designed so that as many class members as possible can have a turn borrowing them. These Bibles also stay with the teacher for many years of Bible borrowing, for K-3 students to read by themselves or with their family at home (not sent home as gifts).

Impact

The impact of the Bibles in Schools Grant has been seen in the way it resources and encourages the Scripture Teachers who partake in the program. Furthermore, the stories and testimonies from the teachers reveal the impact of having Bibles available in their classes.

In the 2022-2023 financial year, 868 Jesus Storybook 'Borrow Bibles' were requested through the Scripture Grant. Around 5,128 CEV Big Rescue Bibles were requested for classroom sets and 334 CEV Youth Bibles were requested for classroom sets. In addition to this, BSA partnered with Scripture teachers, chaplains, and a SRE provider to prepare a new edition of the CEV Youth Compact Bible with an updated cover and custom pages, which is more accessible for youth.

Testimonies

"I think this grant from Bible Society is wonderful. I would never be able to afford whole sets of class Bibles for my classes. Thank you so much for the opportunity to share God's precious book with children who'd never seen a Bible before." — Julie, CRI

Prayer Needs

- Thank God for the families that have opted to participate in Special Religious Education and Christian Religious Instruction this year. Pray that God's word falls like seeds in good soil.
- Pray for continued opportunities to Open The Bible with Australian school students.
- Pray that children will be introduced to the Bible through Scripture classes, and guided by their teachers, will feel confident to turn to God's word throughout their lives as their light and guide.