

# Bibles in Schools



Project: N/A  
Tax-Deductible

## Australia

### Overview

Bible Society Australia equips volunteer Scripture teachers in Special Religious Education (SRE) and Christian Religious Instruction (CRI) through a Scripture Grant to provide classroom Bibles. These age-appropriate Scriptures help Open The Bible with thousands of children in Australian public schools.

### The Need

Across Australia, many students have little or no familiarity with the Bible. A significant proportion of the 2.6 million public school students have never engaged with Scripture or explored its meaning for their lives, with no one to help them understand the Bible's story, themes or relevance.

In some public schools, SRE and CRI classes, run by trained volunteers from local churches, provide an important opportunity for students to encounter the Bible. Yet many teachers lack access to age-appropriate Scriptures, so students cannot learn to open, read and interact with the Bible for themselves.

Despite Australia's strong Christian heritage, Bible engagement in the broader culture is low. In the secular West, including Australia, a recent survey (Patmos World Bible Attitudes 2025) revealed that only 40% of people say religion is important in their daily lives, and large segments rarely or never read the Bible. Yet even in this context, some groups still recognise the Bible's value; for example, in one segment, 77% agree it is a useful guide for learning right from wrong, and across every global context surveyed, people believe it is good for children to know some Bible stories.

- **2.6 million** public school students in Australia
- **<32%** of Generation Y's own a Bible — that is, less than 1 in 3 (McCrinkle Research, 2014)
- **77%** of one surveyed group in the secular West say the Bible is a useful guide for learning right from wrong — even though many rarely or never read it (Patmos World Bible Attitudes Survey 2025)



### Goals

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

In 2026, this project aims to continue equipping Scripture teachers and CRI instructors with the Bibles they need to open God's Word with their students. BSA will provide a Scripture Grant, so teachers have reliable access to class sets of the CEV *Big Rescue Bible*, and the CEV Youth Bible. Building on the engagement seen in 2024–25, the project seeks to serve at least 140–150 Scripture teachers nationwide, enabling them to resource multiple classes over many years.

A refreshed design of the *Big Rescue Bible* is also in the works in 2026 as well as plans to expand the reach of these Scripture resources to new SRE teachers and CRI instructors.

## Impact

This Scripture Grant impacts volunteer Scripture teachers by resourcing and encouraging them with Bibles and resources to engage students. Furthermore, the stories and testimonies from the teachers reveal the impact of having Bibles available in their classes.

In the 2024-2025 financial year, volunteer teachers and coordinators placed 144 class-set orders, distributing 3,403 CEV Big Rescue Bibles for primary school classroom sets and

1,173 CEV Youth Bibles for high-school classes. The Borrow Bible continued with strong demand: 128 new Borrow sets (405 individual *Jesus Storybook Bibles*) were supplied so children could take a Bible home each week.

To encourage confident use of Scripture, 12,425 "How to Read the Bible" bookmarks were shared, with a further 15,000 printed in June 2025 to meet demand.

## Impact in Numbers

# 4,576

Bibles for new classroom sets in the last year

# 405

copies of the *Jesus Storybook Bible* supplied as Borrow Bibles for primary school students in 2025

## Testimony

"Have you ever seen a child SO keen to be chosen to answer a question that they rise up on their knees, taller than all the other students, with their hand stretched up as high as it can go? That's the response I got from my SRE class when I asked them, 'Who would like to borrow a [Jesus Storybook "Borrow"] Bible?' It is such a blessing to be able to open God's word with children and build their confidence so they can do that for themselves."

— Emily, SRE Teacher and Coordinator

## How Your Support Helps

# \$15

will help place a Youth Bible in a high-school class

# \$20

will help provide a *Big Rescue Bible*

"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**