



2025 TERM 2 LIFE GROUP MATERIAL

Bracken Ridge
BAPTIST CHURCH

Faith Runs Deep

Australian documentary series and resource Faith Runs Deep is hosted by Karl Faase. Join he and Jane Faase as they travel across Australia unearthing stories of faith. You'll meet and hear about Christian leaders, missionaries, indigenous elders, sports people and armed service personnel who share stories of sacrifice, courage, forgiveness, acceptance and faith.

ACCESSING THE MATERIAL

On the following pages you will find all of the information needed to go through the Life Group Material. There are corresponding videos that can be accessed through our "Olive Tree Media" account with the church. Go to olivetreemedia.com.au/watch/series/faith-runs-deep to access the videos, & email dave@brbc.org.au for the access code.

If you are unable for some reason to access the material through these different means, please simply email office@brbc.org.au or call 07 3261 5045.

EPISODE 1 – FAITH RUNS DEEP

Introduction

- 1.What impact have you seen of Christianity in Australia? Has it been positive or negative, or both?
- 2.What legacy do you think is most valuable for Aussies?

Watch the Episode

Discussion

- 3.What has been your own experience of faith? Do you have a story of how faith has impacted you and your history, for good or otherwise? Explain it briefly to the group.
4. What surprised you in the episode? Who is the person you resonated with most? Why? Share this with the group

Bible Study: Read Ecclesiastes 3:10-14

- 5.What are the main ideas in this passage? Take the familiar Bible language and make it understandable to a person on the street. As you do this, you will be wrestling with the meaning of each phrase.
- 6.Do you agree with the teacher? Where do you disagree?
- 7.What do you think is the burden of humanity?
- 8.What does it mean that he “has set eternity in the human heart”?
- 9.Anne Pattel-Grey mentioned that God was present in Australia for thousands of years before white settlement. What evidence is there of that? How do you understand First Nations' faith before the arrival of Christians?
- 10.Colin Buchanan mentioned the tree rotting at its base and wonders if Australian culture could go down the same way. What do you think? What evidence do you see of our Christian heritage? Where do you think we are in danger?

Reflection

- 11.What important idea have you learned watching this episode?
- 12.Thank God for our nation and pray for our leaders.

EPISODE 3 – SECOND CHANCE

Introduction

The convict history of Australia seems to be mixed when it comes to Christian faith and its impact.

1. What positive stories do you know about the early settlement and faith? What negative stories do you know?
2. How do you think the early history of Australia impacts Aussie culture now?

Watch the Episode

Bible Study

Lachlan and Elizabeth Macquarie were counter-cultural in their day. They believed that convicts who had finished their sentence were no longer of the 'criminal class,' but people who could be forgiven, restored, and given a fair go. To understand why, we need to understand the Jesus they trusted in.

Read Luke 7:36-50

In this passage, Jesus has an interaction with a Pharisee who thought that people could never be given a second chance.

3. Put yourself in the place of all the different characters (Simon, the guests, the woman and Jesus) in the story. What do you think they think and feel? Why?
4. What does this interaction reveal about Jesus?
5. Which person do you most identify with? Why?

Mary Reibey came to Australia as a convict in 1790. She was freed in 1794, and widowed with seven children in 1811. She represents the many emancipists who were granted their freedom by Macquarie. She lived a life of generosity driven by her faith and values. Her life was completely changed by Lachlan Macquarie. As Christians, we are saved by an even greater act. Macquarie legislated to free convicts. Jesus died and rose again to free us.

6. Share a time when you were given a second chance. What was it like? How did it impact you?
7. When have you given someone a second chance? What happened as a result?
8. Are there times when we shouldn't give someone another chance? Give some biblical and/or practical advice.

EPISODE 5 – MELTING POT

Watch the Episode

Discussion

The Australian story of immigration is a success and a tragedy at the same time. With the exception of the First Nations people, we are all immigrants or descendants of immigrants. Karl addresses the issue of faith and immigration within the Australian community by telling his own story and connecting it to Tony's story. He says: 'Immigration has made our country, but faith still runs deep.'

1. Do you agree? How has immigration made our country? What are the ups and downs of immigration for Australia?
2. Do you have a personal story of immigration? What was the experience of your family, your relatives or friends?

Bible Study: Read Genesis 12:1-3

This is the story of God calling Abraham to leave home and head to a new land. God's promise to Abraham is that all the families of the earth will be blessed through his descendants. This was the beginning of the Jewish nation. At the other end of the Bible in Revelation 7, we read of a vision where all nations are present before God at the end of time. God's plan has always been to bless all people and all

3. What do these verses tell you about God's heart for all nations and cultures?
4. A major challenge for the first Christians was to recognise that God had planned all along to bless all nations, not just the Jewish people. Are there nations that you struggle to accept that God will bless? How do you see God's plan unfolding today?
5. Read Colossians 1:21-23. What is the most significant aspect of being reconciled to God for you? Is that comfort, confidence, joy, rest from striving, reduced anxiety, purposefulness, or something else? Thank God for this gift together.
6. Do you think that Aussies have prejudices towards different cultures? What prejudices have you noticed in some people? Do you feel you have any personal prejudices?
7. Here is a prayer that you might like to pray silently. "Help me, Lord, to love each person you bring into my life, just as You love me. And help me to see people groups as you see them, needing your care, mercy and gentleness. Amen."
8. Where are the immigrants, asylum seekers, or refugees in your community from? What concrete actions have you taken or could you take to welcome and help them?

EPISODE 6 – THAT OTHER RELIGION

Introduction

Australia is a sports-mad country with almost religious fervour. We are faithful followers of our teams and our sporting heroes, and outspoken in our support of a particular code. But we are also vocal about our competitors, dismissive of other sports and willing to sledge if it means winning. Carl states that winning doesn't deliver everything you need, you need religion as well.

1. What is it about winning that is so satisfying, even if it's just a team you support? Is there anything unsatisfying about winning?
2. What sports do you play or follow? What does faith provide that sport and winning can't?

Watch the Episode

Discussion

3. What does sport provide to people beyond physical health?
4. Which person did you connect with most in the video? What drove them in their sporting life? What broke them in their sporting life?
5. What drives you in your life? What breaks or has broken you in your life?
6. Read Philippians 3:12-24. Paul is writing to the church in Philippi and uses sporting and athletic imagery to describe the Christian life.
7. What is Paul striving for (Phil. 3:8-11)? Why do you think we need to strain in a life of faith?
8. Many see faith and spirituality as contemplative, peaceful and serene. Yet Paul here gives a very active image of the Christian life. Which image is right? Or can both coexist? How? Do you tend to be more contemplative or more active?
9. What are you striving for as you follow Jesus? What is this striving costing you? What are you willing to sacrifice to achieve that goal?
10. What have you learned in this study?

EPISODE 9 – GRASSROOTS (POLITICS)

Introduction

Some of us have very strongly-held political allegiances and others are “swinging voters.” Our political values and ideas differ and sometimes this creates conflict.

1. What values are most important to you? What values tend to influence the way you vote?
2. What values do you believe are most important for a healthy society? Share this in the group if you feel comfortable.

Watch the Episode

Discussion

3. Read Daniel 2. List the differences between Nebuchadnezzar’s and Daniel’s worldviews. How did they see things differently?
4. What key ideas and influences lie behind your view of God, humanity and the world and the way it should function?
5. Amanda Stoker mentions Section 116 of the Constitution, describing it as “a separation between church and state: a wall of protection for the church from the state.” What is your opinion of this separation? How do you see it functioning in Australia?
6. Should Christians be involved in politics? What are the advantages and disadvantages of political involvement and action?
7. Reflect on any recent discussions you have had about politics, politicians and/or government. How did your faith impact your views and the way you expressed them?
8. Read 1 Timothy 2:1-4. How do you pray for political leaders? What do you do if you disagree with some of their policies? Spend some time praying.
9. What is one world, national, state or local issue that has been on your mind lately? How can you pray for change in this situation? Is there any way you can personally get involved in rectifying this issue?



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