



Programme for 2007-8

Term 1

Masterplan – a bird’s eye view of the whole Bible from Genesis to Revelation seeing how the Bible fits together as one book with one big story and one great hero.

30 th September	Masterplan 1
7 th October	Masterplan 2
14 th October	Masterplan 3
4 th November	Masterplan 4
11 th November	Masterplan 5
18 th November	Masterplan 6
25 th November	Masterplan 7

Term 2

Evangelism – what is it about the message of Jesus Christ that means it needs to be shared? What right do we have to tell people of other faiths (or none) to convert? How, practically, can we do this?

The Cross – every Christian knows that the cross is vitally important to the Christian faith and that Jesus died “for me”. But how does the cross actually solve the problem of sin and God’s judgment? How does it defeat the devil? How can we best explain what happened at the cross to other people?

13 th January	Evangelism 1
20 th January	Evangelism 2
27 th January	Evangelism 3
10 th February	The Cross 1
17 th February	The Cross 2
24 th February	The Cross 3

Term 3

How to read the Bible for all it’s worth – in the Autumn we looked at the big picture of the story of the whole Bible. But how does that help me read a particular passage of the Bible? How can I pick up my Bible and understand what God means in any verse or chapter? These sessions will introduce the essential tools you need to help you understand God’s living and life-changing word.

13 th April	How to read the Bible for all it’s worth 1
20 th April	How to read the Bible for all it’s worth 2
27 th April	How to read the Bible for all it’s worth 3
18 th May	How to read the Bible for all it’s worth 4
25 th May	How to read the Bible for all it’s worth 5
1 st June	How to read the Bible for all it’s worth 6
8 th June	How to read the Bible for all it’s worth 7



Masterplan

**The unfolding purposes of God
in the whole Bible**

**Session I
Introduction & Genesis 1-3**

Andrew Evans

Two myths about the Bible:

1 **The Bible is for experts.**

2 **The Bible is very far removed from the world in which I live.**

It is... (example – “I am the bread of life” John 6)

And it isn't...

What is the Bible?

66 books

Around 40 different human authors

Written down over a period of approximately 2,000 years from 1,900 BC to 100AD.

Two main languages with the Old Testament being written in Hebrew (which a few chapters in Aramaic) and the New Testament written in Greek.

Contains a number of different types of literature including history, poetry, proverb, fictional story, letter and law.

The Old Testament

Contains 39 books which are arranged in Christian Bibles following the pattern of the Greeks and Romans as follows:

History	Poetry	Prophecy
Genesis – Esther	Job – Song of Songs	Isaiah - Malachi

This is not the same what that the Jews organise the Bible which has, from hundreds of years before Christ, been arranged so:

Law	Prophets		Writings
	Former	Latter	
Genesis – Deuteronomy (The Pentateuch)	Joshua – 2 Kings	Isaiah – Malachi	Psalms and wisdom literature History of the exile and afterwards

The New Testament

27 books all written within around 50 years of each other.

Gospels	Early Church History	Letters	Apocalypse
Matthew Mark Luke John	Acts	Mostly by Paul (13) Also Hebrews (unknown) and letters by Peter, James, John and Jude	Revelation

Why do we need the Bible?

Because in order to know God we need revelation.

And the Christian claim is that God reveals himself, in the Bible, in two ways:

- By ensuring the recording of actual **events** in history (like the Exodus of the Jews through the Red Sea, the death of Jesus on the cross and the growth of the early church) in which he was involved AND
- By giving **explanations** of what those events mean.

One great divine author – God himself.

2 Timothy 3:16: "All Scripture is God breathed."

One author – one story.

The Bible is NOT a lucky dip!

What is the message of the Bible?

The message of the Bible is:

- The story of the covenant God's determination to keep promises to his people.
- The story of the establishment of the Kingdom of God
- The story of salvation history

Whichever way you look at it all of these summaries emphasise three really vital things:

- God always takes the initiative.
- Jesus Christ is central as Saviour and Lord.
- God's purposes will be complete in the new heavens and earth when Jesus comes back.

Genesis 1-3

Genesis 1: God's Relationship to the whole universe

Day	God Created	Day	God Created
1		4	
2		5	
3		6	

Genesis 2: God's relationship with his people

Read Genesis 2

- What are the most important things that happen in these verses?

A people...

A place...

A king who rules...

SUMMARY: In Genesis 1 & 2 **God's people (Adam and Eve) are living in God's perfect place (the garden) in obedience to God's rule and experiencing his great blessing.**

Genesis 3: Why we don't live in the perfect world God made

- Look at Genesis 3. What do the different characters do wrong?

- What are the consequences of the rebellion for:
 - The world?
 - The woman?
 - The man?
 - Humanity?

SUMMARY: In Genesis 3 **God's people are expelled from his place and are living under his rule of judgment not blessing but with a promise for the future...**

- Is there anything positive in Genesis 3? What?!