

ROUTE66

introduction

Welcome to ROUTE 66 a crash course to navigating life with the Bible

“Excites and stimulates the reader to delve wider and deeper within the Bible”

Mark Meynall,
All Souls,
Langham
Place

Many Christians are struggling to read the Bible. The lack of appetite that some of us have for Scripture can stem from a lack of confidence and competence in reading the Bible. These two aspects of confidence and competence are intrinsically linked. If we struggle to know how to handle the strange world of the Levitical law, the outrageous language of the prophets, the apparently contradictory logic of the wisdom literature or bizarre metaphors of the apocalyptic literature we can begin to feel we are losing grip of the scriptures as a whole. Just like some learner drivers are too nervous to drive above twenty mph so some Christians never really get going in their Bible reading because they have not been given enough skills to help them become competent and confident Bible readers. Route 66 aims to help restore confidence in the scriptures by helping us become competent in reading, understanding and living out the range of different genres.

The inspiration for the book came from a meeting with Gordon Fee, who when asked for one piece of advice to give Christians to help them mature in their grasp of the Bible, said: “Give them something to look for in the text.” Route 66 seeks to do exactly that - helping Christians to know what they are looking for in the Bible.

It has been fantastic to watch people light up when they grasp how Hebrew poetry works, or when they see how the imagery in Revelation holds together. I have seen a renewed sense of excitement they have in opening the Bibles and hearing God speak to them in fresh ways and have also seen how lives have been transformed by appreciating the breadth and depth of the Bible. So I invite you to bring your congregations on a journey to discover how the whole Bible equips us for the whole of life.

Outline:

An 8 week teaching programme for the church

ROAD MAP

Week 1 Living faithfully (the narrative literature)

how can the stories of the Bible shape the way we live as christians?

why did God reveal himself to us by telling stories

Week 2 Living distinctively (the law)

what are Christians supposed to do with the law?

how can the law help us to appreciate the holiness of God?

Week 3 Living poetically (the Psalms)

how can the Psalms help us to develop emotional maturity and integrity

Week 4 Living discerningly (the wisdom literature)

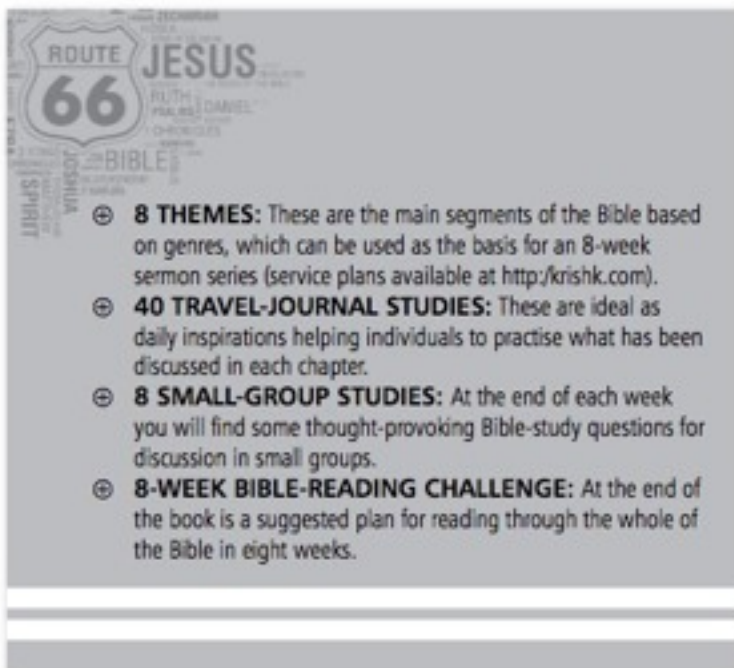
how can the wisdom literature help us to make good decisions in life?

Week 5 Living prophetically (the prophets)

how can the prophets help us to live wholeheartedly for God?

Week 6 Living infectiously (the gospels)

how do the gospels shape the way we think, act and feel as christians



Outline:

An 8 week teaching programme for the church

Route 66: a journey to discover how the 66 books of the Bible help us to know God and how to live for him. This book provides a crash course in enjoying the breadth and depth of the Bible, packed full of practical help.

Route 66 provides an eight week curriculum to help the whole church enjoy the whole of the Bible over 8 weeks.

The best way to use **Route 66** is to encourage the whole church to read the book over 8 weeks (there are 5 short sections to be read each week - they could fit nicely into someone's devotional time). Each week we look at a different genre of scripture and provide tools and inspiration to help Christians enjoy the whole Bible.

With everyone on the same page the church can then help to push home the ideas through small groups and Sunday services.

Sundays- use this guide to help plan a sermon teaching series. There are two options for sermon ideas given for each week. If you have two services you could use one in the morning and the other in the evening service.

Small groups - use the small group material provided in the book.

Individual study - each week read 5 bite sized chapters.

WORSHIP SERVICE IDEAS

The aim of **ROUTE 66** is to encourage the whole congregation to develop an appetite for God’s word and a greater confidence in understanding God’s word for themselves. We want to help the congregation come to see that the whole of God’s word really is “God breathed and useful for teaching, correcting and training in righteousness” 2 Timothy 3:16



Each week we want to help the congregation get a sense of the value of the Bible for the life of faith. This will mean making sure we choose songs that highlight the value of God’s word or the storied nature of God’s relationship with us.

If you have a Children’s slot or an all age part of the service use it to help the children grasp that the Bible is more than a book. There are some ideas on the slides marked ALL AGE.



BIBLE MIX AND MATCH



WORSHIP SERVICE IDEAS

IDEA 1 BIBLE MIX AND MATCH

Why not do a Bible mix and match - putting up the images and the Bible verses pictured right and asking the congregation in all age groups to try and match the images with the Bible passages. The harder question is to try and work out how the Bible is like a lamp to our feet, or a sword.

IDEA 2 BIBLE READER

Ask a young person to read the passage to be preached from, even better ask a young person to memorise it, or prepare some comments on it.

IDEA 3 ASK A FAMILY TO GO VID

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3buLQoCN6KY> Just like the youtube video above, why not ask a family to come up with a creative video for next week's Bible reading.

IDEA 4 INTERVIEW

Give people some preparation time and ask them to explain publicly the impact the Bible has had on their relationship with God.

IDEA 5 INTERVIEW BIBLE READER

You might want to ask the Bible reader after they have finished reading the Bible what really struck them as they prepared and read the passage and how we can pray for them in their workplace, home or school as they seek to live out this passage in the following week.

Song Suggestions:

I will sing the wondrous story,
Francis Rowley, 1886

Lord I lift your name on High,
Rick Founds

Speak O Lord,
S. Townend & K. Getty

Yesterday Today and Forever,
Vicky Beeching

Open the Eyes of my Heart,
Michael W. Smith

Your word is a Lamp to my feet,
Amy Grant

From the Breaking of the Dawn
S. Townend & K. Getty

PREACHING IDEAS

8 week series

"We know we need the Bible to navigate our way through life – but how to navigate the Bible? Krish Kandiah has provided a wonderful resource in this accessible guide to making the most of the whole Bible. It is the ideal introduction for exploring every part of scripture and applying it to every part of life. Route 66 is a skilful roadmap to the Bible, with plenty of excellent ideas for group study and application, many dynamic illustrations, and a clear eye on the purpose of the whole exercise – gaining God's wisdom for the whole of life. I warmly commend Route 66 as a great way to discover the power and relevance of every part of God's Word."

Jonathan Lamb,
Director,
Langham
Preaching, and
Chairman,
Keswick
Ministries

An 8-week teaching series that takes a genre a week to model how to handle each different type of biblical literature is a great way to help give your congregation the passion and the skills they need to use the whole of the Bible for the whole of life.

Each week there are two different types of sermon ideas. One series basically takes you through the headlines of the Route 66 book giving skills along the way.

The other series focusses on how the different genres reveal Jesus to us in different ways.

If you have seekers and visitors coming regularly on a Sunday morning - **Route 66: the way to Jesus** series may work best in the morning service. If you have an evening service you could use the **Route 66: a crash course in navigating life with the Bible** and leave more space for questions, group work and conversation.

Because preaching is a live event - where God through the preacher takes the his word and by his spirit makes it speak to his people, the suggestions for preaching are clues for you to follow up rather than a script. In the end the preachers themselves know what is going to best connect with the congregation in front of them.

Sermon Series Option 1

ROUTE 66:

A crash course in navigating life with the Bible

1. Living Faithfully
2. Living Distinctively
3. Living Poetically
4. Living Discerningly
5. Living Prophetically
6. Living Infectiously
7. Living Purposefully
8. Living Hopefully

Sermon Series Option 2

ROUTE 66:

The way to Jesus

1. Jesus the Key to the Story
2. Jesus the Lawkeeper
3. Jesus the Singing Saviour
4. Jesus the Wisdom of God
5. Jesus the Promised One
6. Jesus the Good News
7. Jesus the Cosmic King
8. Jesus the Destination

SERMON IDEAS WEEK 1

LIVING FAITHFULLY the narrative literature

SERMON OPTION 1

Living faithfully with the narrative literature.

Explain that through this teaching series the aim is to help Christians to grow in their appreciation of the breadth and depth of the Bible and become more confident in allowing the Bible to shape the way we live for God. Explain that those who are checking out the Christian faith will be given a bird's eye view of the sweep of the Bible the book that reveals God to us.

Use the chapter of ROUTE 66 "The ride of our lives" p.21-23 as the basis of your sermon.

Explore why so much of the Bible is in narrative form and the impact this has for discipleship.

- 1. Stories reveal God's character**
- 2. Stories draw us into the story**
- 3. Stories draw us into relationship**
- 4. Stories make us who we are**
- 5. Stories change our lives**

If you have a lot of time you could provide a worked example showing how the story of Judges is cyclical, helping us to see God's character more clearly and to reflect on our own individual and corporate relationship with God.

SERMON OPTION 2

Jesus: the key to the story

Use the chapter of ROUTE 66 "One eye on the road" p.27-29 as the basis of your sermon.

Use the Story of David and Goliath as a way to misappropriate Old Testament Characters.

"The main problem is that when we focus on a Bible character, we naturally try to draw parallels between that person and our own lives. Because we are biased, we like to identify with the "hero" characters like David, Abraham, Moses, Deborah and Jesus, while the "villain" characters like Goliath or the Pharisees we apply to other people – usually people we don't like. There are lots of instances in history of Christians misinterpreting Scripture in this way. The Afrikaans church in South Africa during apartheid, for example, called themselves the people of God and dismissed the Africans, equating them with the Canaanites who should be ejected from the land." p.27

Retell the story using Graeme Goldsworthy's insights from p.27-28. Explore helpful ways to see Jesus in the Old Testament without falling into the trap of illegitimate imposition on the text. (see p.30-32). Inspire the congregation to see Jesus as the key to the Old Testament.

"Route 66 is a fantastic resource, packed with great teaching. If you want to understand the Bible better and to fall in love with God more deeply, then this book is a must."

Vicky Beching,
worship leader,
songwriter &
blogger

SERMON IDEAS WEEK 2

LIVING DISTINCTIVELY the law

Sermon Option 1

Living distinctively with the law

Explain that the law was a gift, that Old Testament believers were saved by grace through faith. Use the chapter entitled : “White Lines” p. 42-44 to inspire your sermon.

Explore the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20 to help us understand the purpose of the law. Verses 1 and 2 set the context.

“Before he explains his laws to his people, God wants to remind them that these words are to be read in the context of his powerful, loving and historic acts and in the light of his eternal, unchanging, “I am” character. God is not like a harsh headmaster laying down the ground rules on the first day of school. He is more like the kind lifeguard who has just rescued a drowning man and is now telling him to kick off his shoes, don’t thrash about, and don’t panic.” Route 66

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Sermon Option 2

Jesus the lawkeeper

Use the chapter entitled “Concept Cars” p.55-57 to show how Jesus relates to the Old Testament Law.

There is an incredible amount of space given over in the Old Testament to the instructions regarding both animal sacrifice and the details for constructing the tabernacle (or tent of meeting). These are not wasted words. A good rule of Bible reading is to pay close attention to the subject the author devotes a lot of material to. For example, the gospel writers spend far more time on the last week of Jesus’ life than any other week in his life. So what is the significance of these swathes of Scripture describing the carnage that was Israel’s worship?

Show from Leviticus 16 how the sacrifice system points to Jesus Ask the congregation to imagine you were to re-enact the Day of Atonement next Sunday. Make a plan of action, with a rough budget, a schedule and a risk assessment. How do you feel about doing this? How do you imagine people will react? How does this exercise help us to understand God’s holiness? How does this exercise help us to appreciate what Jesus has done for us?

Show how Romans 12:1–2 and Hebrews 10:19–25 give us ideas on how to live in light of Jesus’ sacrifice.

“Route 66 provides an engaging guide not only to what the Bible says, but also to how it works. Brimming with humour and illustration, rooted in today’s world, its sharp insights and keys to understanding connect the reader to the text in fresh, motivational and life-changing ways. Travel on this journey and you will surely hear God more clearly in His Word, love him more deeply and want to live for him more fully.”

Rev David Jackman,
Founder of the Cornhill Training Course and past President of the Proclamation Trust.

SERMON IDEAS WEEK 3

LIVING POETICALLY the psalms

Sermon Option 1

Living poetically with the psalms

Explore how music and poetry connects with our emotions and affections. Use chapter entitled “Playlist” p.62-64 to inspire your sermon.

Unpack how the Psalms are strange songs which:

***Speak to us and for us,
speak hope and despair,
are private and public and
are human and divine.***

Show how the Psalms offer the unique perspective of being both God’s word to us and words for us to express to God. Even a cursory overview of the psalms demonstrates the variety of pastoral and experiential contexts they were written in. Spend time exploring the roles of different types of psalms in our worship: praise, lament, confession etc, and show how the raw emotions of the psalms give us a model of relating our emotional life to God.

Look briefly at the parallelisms in Psalm 1 as a worked example, that points to a recurring theme in the psalms of godly choices.

Sermon Option 2

Jesus the Singing Saviour*

Show how Jesus quotes the Psalms more than any other book of the Bible. They seem to be part of his devotional life, and draw us closer to him by giving us words to say to Jesus, and words to say about Jesus. Use the chapter entitled “Getting Closer” p. 75-77 to inspire your sermon.

“The psalms speak for Jesus as they give him words to say in the middle of great joy and great pain. When he enters Jerusalem on a donkey, he is met by a flash mob, as the crowds sing and celebrate and offer their coats for the first-century red-carpet treatment. But when the religious wet-blanket leaders criticize Jesus for the way the children are getting into the spirit of the occasion, Jesus quotes Psalm 8: “from the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise” (Matthew 21:16). Jesus saw the psalm being fulfilled in the joy and jubilation of the buzz of praise around him. At the other extreme, he also expresses the rawness of his pain and isolation on the cross by using words from Psalm 22: “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

The psalms speak of Jesus as they are filled with prophecies about his life, death and resurrection. Jesus used the psalms to explain who he was and what would happen to him – for example, on the Emmaus road (Luke 24:44). The gospel writers also often explained the significance of events in Jesus’ life by referring to the psalms. (see p.75)

“Krish Kandiah’s Route 66 is a brilliant tool for getting people to engage with the whole grand arc of Scripture, but to do so by anchoring its message in real living, whether imaginatively, prophetically, infectiously etc. It’s no mean feat to gather up the insights of scholars like Goldsworthy, Brueggemann, Fee and Vanhoozer and make them accessible to a new generation of Bible readers. And all the while, he insists we apply its truths to everyday missional living. A powerful tool.”

Michael Frost,
Morling
College, Sydney,
Author, The
Shaping of
Things to
Come, Exiles,
ReJesus

SERMON IDEAS WEEK 4

LIVING DISCERNINGLY the wisdom literature

Sermon Option 1

Living discerningly with the wisdom literature

Explore the different ways advice is being offered to us in the media:

Everyone is offering advice these days. As I drive home I hear the words of Jeremy Clarkson taunting me as I imagine what life would be like if I had a car that could zoom through speed cameras faster than they could zap me. When I get home I have supernanny's advice ringing in my ears as I wonder which of my kids to send to the naughty step and which I should be taking quad biking. When I sit down for dinner I wonder what Jamie Oliver would say about the smell and the tastes that I have concocted. When I go to bed, I wonder what I will get for my birthday – no doubt it will include new books promising to help me make decisions about clothes, diet, food, sleep and everything in between. p.82

"I've recommended or given away many guides to help people get the most out of their Bible reading in the past; from now on this book will be my first choice. With easy humour and constant insight, Krish Kandiah tells us what we need to do to get excited about the Bible again, and to allow it to change us."

Dr Stephen R. Holmes,
Lecturer in Systematic Theology,
University of St Andrews

Sermon Option 2

Jesus the Wisdom of God

Use the chapter entitled: "Connections" on p.97-99

Explore the relationship between Jesus and the Wisdom of God from Proverbs 8:22-31 and John 1. Help the congregation enjoy both the connections and the disconnections between wisdom personified in Proverbs 8 and Jesus.

Wisdom – revealed in Jesus
Wisdom - seen in creation
Wisdom - worked out through a person
Wisdom - passed on through words
Wisdom - that surpasses understanding

Use the chapter entitled "Crossroads" p.82-84 as the inspiration for your sermon. Look briefly at the pursuit of wisdom through a worked example on Proverbs 2.

Explore why wisdom is both:

- a) a gift and a skill
- b) theory and practice

Use some real life case studies to practice what it means to pursue godly wisdom.

SERMON IDEAS WEEK 5

LIVING PROPHETICALLY the prophets

Sermon Option 1

Living prophetically with the prophets

Use the chapter entitled:

“Viewpoints” p.104-106 as the inspiration for this week’s sermon.

Explain why the prophets do more than simply predict the future, and why their role was vital.

Explore how the prophetic literature looks back
looks around and
looks forward

The prophets call God’s people to avoid the shallowness and showiness of ritualistic pietistic faith and instead challenge God’s people to justice, political engagement and radical holiness. Provide an introduction to the prophetic literature that both challenges and inspires guests to want to read this genre type for themselves.

Use a worked example from Isaiah 40.

Sermon Option 2

Jesus the Promised One

Use the chapter entitled **“The long way round”** p.120-122 as the inspiration for this sermon. Show how the failure of the prophets to live out the message they were preaching points us to the word made flesh - Jesus the perfect incarnation of God’s truth. (Hebrews 1)

Explore how the prophets called the people of God back to the covenant, challenged the way God’s people were living in their day and warned and comforted them with a vision of God’s future.

Show how Jesus fulfills many specific prophetic details. (see p.121)

Use the worked example from Zechariah 11 using the questions the on p.122.

"This book is going top of my list for what I'll be doing next with my church small-group. It's a fantastic way to get stuck-in to reading the Bible, learning afresh how it all hangs together, and giving God an opportunity to speak his word to us through his word for all people. I'm excited about the impact it will have on you as you use it"

Ruth Valerio,
Author, L is for
Lifestyle

SERMON IDEAS WEEK 6

LIVING INFECTIOUSLY the gospels

Sermon Series Option 1 Living infectiously with the gospels.

Explore why we need to read the gospels in light of the Old Testament: using Luke 24 as an entry point. Use the chapter entitled “Used Cars” p. 128-131 as the inspiration for your sermon.

“Foundations: The gospel writers don’t usually reference what they considered to be widely recognized foundational knowledge of the Old Testament. For example, when Jesus said, “I am the bread of life”, this would have brought immediately to mind God’s name “Yahweh” (literally “I am” in Hebrew) and the miraculous provision of manna in the desert.

Fulfilment: Notice where the Gospel writers deliberately refer to the Old Testament prophecies. They have to specifically cite the references because their audience may not otherwise see the connection.

Framework: The Gospel writers treat the Old Testament like a frame. They pick up on the events, the imagery and the themes and show how Jesus fulfils them.

Field of vision: The gospels are full of clues as to how we should now live not only in the light of Jesus’ incarnation and resurrection, but also in the light of his imminent return.”

Sermon Option 2 Jesus: the good news of God

Use Luke 23 as a means to explore the purpose of Jesus’ life and death. Use the chapter entitled “Conversations” p. 142-144 as the inspiration of your sermon.

Explore the breadth of literary types in the gospels but zoom into the conversations Jesus had.

Provide a worked example of Jesus conversation from the cross in Luke 23 follow the clues in p.142 to see how Jesus conversations and the contexts in which they occur give us models on how to preach the gospel.

This is a great evangelistic sermon opportunity, use it to help Christians come to appreciate the compassion, passion and grace of Jesus and to help non-Christians know that its possible to be very close to Jesus and yet miss out on the implications of his death, but to everyone who turns to him there is the free offer of forgiveness.

“Route 66 doesn’t make the Bible come alive. It shows that the Bible is alive - with the voice of God. In an age when even believers are bewildered by the Bible, Krish Kandiah shows us how all the parts of this most extraordinary book fit together and how each part makes its own contribution. He does this without either dumbing it down or ignoring some of the hard questions. He writes with a clarity and zest that make it a pleasure to read. Best of all, Route 66 has made me want to read my Bible more.”

Rev. Dr. Michael Jensen,
Assistant to Academic Dean and lecturer in Doctrine and Church History, Moore College, Australia

SERMON IDEAS WEEK 7

LIVING PURPOSEFULLY the epistles

Sermon Series Option 1 **Living purposefully with the epistles**

Explore the ways in which New Testament letters were not just theological treatises but address head, heart and hands. Use the chapter entitled “Go the Distance” p. 155-157 as the inspiration of this sermon.

Show how the writers of the epistles were not trying to set out a definitive account of the Christian message as the fundamentals of faith for future churches everywhere; they were responding to the pressing needs of churches encountering challenges on the ground.

Show how the Epistles do more than just shape our intellects but inform our emotions and inspire our actions. Use this sermon to inspire and reinvision the church to pursue both a clearer concept of doctrine and of Christian affections and action.

Use Romans 11:25 – 12:2 as a worked example (see p.157)

Sermon Option 2 **Jesus the Cosmic King**

Show how the epistles provide a bigger picture of Jesus than even the gospels. Use the chapter entitled “Pimp my ride” p.161-163 as the inspiration for your sermon.

Jesus has been widely portrayed both as the macho Christ, and the pacifist Christ. He has too often been reduced to the poster boy for this kind of politics, that kind of parenting, this kind of church, and that kind of worship experience. The epistles challenge us to paint a bigger picture of Jesus, so we no longer fall into the trap of constricting Christ to our agendas, but, realizing he is far too big to fit into our plans, instead we begin to fit into his.

Paul’s cosmic descriptions of Jesus in Colossians 1 and Ephesians 1, for example, help us to counter our temptation to think that he exists for us, by powerfully reminding us that we exist for him.

Use Colossians 1:15-23 as a worked example for this sermon. Help both Christians and non-Christians get a grasp of the supreme majesty of Christ.

“People sometimes feel daunted by the Bible, and often misuse it. Krish Kandiah is a lively and trustworthy guide who will help you use it well and see its relevance. Route 66 is clear, enjoyable and very useful, making the Bible come alive. I warmly recommend this book.”

Rev. Dr. David Wenham, Vice Principal and Tutor in New Testament, Trinity College, Bristol

SERMON IDEAS WEEK 8

LIVING HOPEFULLY

the apocalyptic literature

Sermon Option 1 **Living hopefully with the apocalyptic literature**

Explore why the secret code model of interpretation of the book of Revelation is not helpful or accurate. Use the chapter entitled “**Predictions**” p.172-175 as the inspiration for your sermon.

Many people spend enormous amounts of time and energy trying to work out from Revelation the order of events for the last days of history, as though the book were a countdown to disaster or an early warning system for believers. But if this were right, then it would have been a useless book for all the readers over the centuries, with unintelligible prophecies and an unfulfilled promise of blessing. The structure of the metaphors and images of apocalyptic literature is best understood not as a chronological feature, but as a cyclical feature.

Explore the way that the book of revelation uses:

1. Numbers (p.179)
2. Images (p. 174)
3. Old Testament (p.173)

Sermon Option 2 **Jesus the Destination**

Explore the way that the book of revelation is the revelation of Jesus Christ. Use the chapter entitled “**Pictures**” p.176-178 as the inspiration for this week’s sermon - particularly the way in which the symbolism of the lamb on the throne points us to Jesus.

Explore the idea we saw in Colossians 1 that everything was made by Jesus and for Jesus and how the imagery of the Book of Revelation builds on this.

Use Revelation 5’s image of the lion, the lamb and the throne as a way to present a fuller picture of Jesus.

“One of the easiest ways to mess up our reading and understanding of the Bible is to ignore the differences in literary genre. This book organizes the biblical material into the main types of literature and in a generally chronological way. The organization of the book into a course of eight weeks study provides the serious Bible student with a basic introduction to the entire Bible. The author has an uncanny ability to peg biblical principles to everyday experiences of modern living in a way that makes the whole Bible relevant to us. This is a great aid to understanding the Bible.”

Graeme Goldsworthy.
Visiting lecturer in Hermeneutics, Moore College, Sydney.