



Australia - Scripture Grants
Project Fact Sheet 2022

Australia: Bibles in Schools

Overview

Bible Society Australia (BSA) seeks to serve and equip groups who are ministering to Australians in all areas of life, by providing Bibles and Scripture resources through our Scripture Grants. This includes a Scripture Grant for Bibles

in Schools, to equip and support volunteer teachers and instructors participating in Special Religious Education (SRE) and Christian Religious Instruction (CRI).

The Need

Many students in public schools are not familiar with the Bible. For many of the 2.4 million public school students across Australia, God's story found in the Bible is - amazingly - a new story. For some of them, no-one has ever shown them how the Bible is relevant to them and the world they live in.

However, in some public schools, religious education classes can be conducted by volunteers from various churches.

Bible Society Australia is committed to helping these teams of dedicated volunteers bring the message of the Bible to the children of Australia - by providing them free class sets of Bibles.

The Bibles in Schools Grant enables Scripture teachers to give their students the privilege of holding, navigating, and reading a Bible within their classes in public schools.



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Project Goals

This grant aims to equip, strengthen and resource Scripture teachers with God's word, and to help them Open The Bible with their students, so children can discover and engage with God's word.

This year, 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 are kept by teachers and instructors to Open The Bible over many years in class time.

This project will also supply sets of 'Jesus Storybook' Borrow Bibles 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. The teacher keeps the Borrow Bibles for many years of Bible borrowing, so that K-3 students can borrow Bibles to read by themselves or with their family at home.

Testimonies

'It's great to have Bibles in the class for the children to use. Several children showed growth in their understanding of the Bible. These Bibles are just such a terrific resource to be used.' -SRE teacher Bob, 2021

'This Grant really opens doors so kids can read the word of God and know the love he has for them. The kids were eager to have the word of God in their own hands. This is a great initiative'. ~ Primary SRE teacher and coordinator Lorenzo, 2021

'My Kinder class really responded to The Jesus Storybook borrow Bible. [They] squabbled each week as to who was next to take the Borrow Bibles home. They loved them! It was hard for some to wait! Many students reported back that their parent read them a story every night during their week.~ SRE teacher and coordinator Roslyn, 2021

Impact

The impact of the Bibles in Schools Scripture Grant has been seen in the way it resources and encourages the volunteer 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.

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 that children will be introduced to the Bible and, guided by their teachers, will feel confident to turn to God's word throughout their lives as their light and guide.