

Australian Angles on Pilgrim - Grow Stage

Here are some extra resources for each of the sessions in the Grow stage of Pilgrim: a course for the Christian journey. They aim to contextualise the discussions that might take place in your small groups. As you plan, you'll see where the questions should fit.

None of this is mandatory; you don't need to use all or any of it! But as you plan your sessions you might find a question here or a discussion point there useful, so feel free to make use!

Book Five: The Creeds

Session One – What are the Creeds?

- a. How would you summarise what you are like in five lines?
- b. Finish this sentence: "Australians are..." Make a list. How is this different to a creed?

Session Two – God as Trinity

- a. What is the closest community of which you are a part?
- b. Can you think of any metaphors for the Trinity relationship found in Australian cultures?

Session Three – Fully God and fully human

- a. What's the nicest thing/a compliment an Australian can say about another person?
- b. According to Christians, Jesus is fully human and fully divine. Make a case for Australians finding it easier to relate to one of those facets.

Session Four - Crucified, risen and ascended

- a. Describe the version of Heaven that most Australians might desire.
- b. Is there a relationship between the [oft-noted Australian virtue of mateship](#) and what theologians call atonement? How would you describe it?
- c. How would you describe the impact of Jesus' actions on the cross to someone who asked about it at a barbeque?

Session Five – I believe in the Holy Spirit

- a. What's a metaphor for the nature of the Holy Spirit that arises from Australian cultures?
- b. Rewrite Peter's Pentecost speech (as noted on page 49) using Australian colloquial language.

Session Six – One, holy, catholic and apostolic Church

- a. What are the positive aspects Australians see about the Church?
- b. How do you see the Church being "catholic" (universal) in Australian society?
- c. What does a truly Australian church look like?

Book Six: The Eucharist

Session One – Your ancestors ate manna in the wilderness

- a. What comes naturally to Australians about worshipping?
- b. How does your parish make people welcome in general? And welcome at the table?

Session Two – This is my body broken for you

- a. What are the components (physical and otherwise) of a [good Australian meal experience](#)?
- b. How would you explain to a fellow Aussie the presence of Jesus at the Eucharist?
- c. What's more important at the altar rail: what you are feeling, or what you are thinking?

Session Three – He was made known to them in the breaking of the bread

- a. Apart from Jesus, name a person who has played a transformative role in your life.
- b. How would you explain the term "sacrament" to an Australian at a barbeque?
- c. What is hardest about worship for Australians?

Session Four – If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in and eat with you

- a. What else do you worship?
- b. Seen the booklet "The Eucharist Explained"? It was written by a group from this Brisbane Diocese. [You can find out more about it here](#).
- c. You can feel "satisfied" after a meal. How does the Eucharist satisfy you?

Session Five – Do this to remember me

- a. Make a list of things Australians worship. It might include people, places or ideas. Share your list.
- b. Describe your typical feelings as you leave church after the Eucharist.
- c. How has worship changed you?

Session Six – I am the bread of life

- a. What's an Australian metaphor for "the bread of life"?
- b. In day to day life, what ordinary things disclose the presence of God to you? Or to put it another way, where do you see God in day to day Australian life?
- c. On the roadside Church noticeboard, a friend has seen that there's a confirmation on soon. How would you describe what that's about?

Book Seven: The Bible

Session One – What is the Bible?

- a. Is the bible more a street directory, instruction manual or cookbook for you? Or something else?
- b. What values that people see as espoused by the bible are found in Australian cultures?

Session Two – The Bible as breath

- a. [Name an Australian who inspires you](#). Why?
- b. What gets in the way of some Australians “entering the house” of the bible (referring to the metaphor on pages 25-26). Therefore, what could assist them?

Session Three – The Bible as a stream of living water

- a. Rewrite the similes in verses three and four (from the passage on page 31) in Australian vernacular.
- b. What assistance does your church give to enable people/you to engage with the bible? What more would help?

Session Four – The Bible as a lamp

- a. Did you have a [favourite storybook](#) as a child? What was it about that book that stays with you?
- b. What’s a story from the bible that you think would resonate with everyday Australians? Why?

Session Five – The Bible as a two-edged sword

- a. How has your understanding of the bible changed since you first encountered it?
- b. What might God find pleasing about Australian society? What might make God less happy?

Session Six – Daily bread

- a. Do you have a basic pattern for an ordinary weekday of your life? (i.e. a time to get up, a time to do particular regular things etc) Describe it...
- b. What gets in the way of you engaging more with Scripture, say, on a daily basis? What could change that situation?
- c. Are there Australian resources that help you engage with scripture regularly? If not, head to www.formedfaith.org and search for examples...

Book Eight: Church & Kingdom

Session One – Praying though life

- a. Christians are sometimes known as [“followers of the Way”](#). How would you describe the Way?
- b. What kinds of things happen in your church between Sundays to support you following the Way?
- c. What would help you pray more regularly? How could that happen?

Session Two – At home and at work

- a. What are some traditionally Australian ways to rest and recreate?
- b. How does worship happen in your life between Sundays? How could it?

Session Three – Living generously

- a. What are you grateful for in our Australian ways of life?
- b. [“Australians are generally a generous people”](#). Do you agree or disagree? Why?
- c. If your church had a windfall this year, what would it do to further God’s kingdom?

Session Four - In all my relationships

- a. Who are you most grateful for in your life?
- b. Who do you find it hardest to be generous to? Why do you suppose that is?
- c. In what parts of your community could you take the risk of forming new relationships?

Session Five – Confronting the injustices of the world

- a. [Australians are sometimes known as people who value “a fair go”](#). How would you explain that idea to someone visiting?
- b. Who needs help in your community? If you’re not sure, what keeps you from knowing?
- c. Make a list of things your parish does to challenge injustice in your community. Are there gaps? Where could you offer some generous help?

Session Six – Treading lightly on the earth

- a. Indigenous Australians are often characterised as having a special connection to the land. How would you describe your connection to the land?
- b. What environmental challenge g=face your local community? [Since Genesis reminds us](#) we are each called to be stewards /of our land, what is/can your church do about them?