

THE POWER AND THE STORY

The Power and the Story!

is the title of a year long project that our Circuit is developing to encourage our churches to engage with the story of the Old Testament and how it points us towards Jesus and gives us a deeper understanding of God's plan for the salvation of all people. The Circuit Staff Team would like to encourage all of our churches to engage as fully as possible with some of the ideas detailed below:

Sunday Morning Theme Preaching Series and linked children's resources:

This will be offered in four sections:

- **From a man to a people** - between September and the end of November we will be looking at the main aspects of the story from Genesis to Numbers.
(Throughout Advent and Christmas we will take a break from the theme preaching series and pick it up again in the New Year.)
- **From a people to a Nation** - In January and February we will focus on the Books of Joshua, Judges, Ruth and Samuel
- **Being the People of God** - Throughout Lent we will look at specific passages which help us to see how the Israelites came to understand their place before God.
- **Prophets and Kings** - After Easter and through to the end of Aug we will see how the history of Israel fits with the ministry of God's prophets and look at the cycle of apathy, oppression, exile and renewal.



House Groups, Book Groups, Study Groups:

It would be great to see lots of folk gathering together in small groups to look in more depth at this wonderful story. Maybe your church already has housegroups or you could set some up just for the year to help deepen people's faith and understanding.

The Circuit Staff Team can provide material. We are currently looking at purchasing study guides by the very popular Christian author and Pastor, John Ortberg which will tie in really well, But the main idea is to give people opportunity to share in a small group during the week their reflections on what was shared on the previous Sunday morning.

If you prefer the style of a Book Group, perhaps your group could take one of the main books of the OT and read it together and discuss your thoughts and observations about it.

We are also looking into the possibility of running a *Disciple Group* or two. These are groups which would meet fortnightly for two and a half hours with a considerable amount of reading to be done inbetween group meetings. It would consist of 16 sessions covering the whole of the Old Testament. There would be a cost to this course in order to cover the materials needed. This is

something for people who really want to get to grips with God's word.

Please contact Rev Tim Perkins directly if you are interested — 01943 864187 or rev.tim.perkins@btinternet.com



Personal Reading and Study:

We are developing three levels of guided reading plans to help individuals engage with the Old Testament at a pace that is right for them:

- Level One - A series of two week blocks reading a chapter a day to give you an oversight of some of the main themes of characters in the Old Testament.
- Level Two - An overview of the Old Testament in forty weeks, reading 3 chapters a week covering all the key themes and characters.
- Level Three - Reading the whole of the Old Testament in a year, reading two or three chapters a day in a way that helps you to understand the chronological development of the story alongside time spent in the "wisdom literature".



A Walk Through the Old Testament

This is an interactive full-day event to be held at Burley in Wharfedale Methodist Church on Saturday October 8th, provided by a charity called "Walk Through the Bible." The days are great fun and offer the opportunity to:

- Make sense of the whole Old Testament
- Enjoy memorable ways to recall the key theme of each book
- See how the land affects the story
- Be inspired to read the Bible with fresh insights



You can find out more about Walk through The Bible Ministries at www.Bible.org.uk. The cost of the day is £14 but the Circuit is committed to covering that and we shall just be asking for donations from participants.

Training Days for Preachers (and any other interested people!)

Saturday September 3rd *The Power and the Story - Part 1*

From a Man to a People (Genesis – Numbers)

First of a series of study days for those who preach, and those seeking fresh perspectives for discipleship through revisiting the Old Testament -the scriptures Jesus read.

Venue: Christchurch, The Grove, Ilkley LS29 9LW

Leader: Revd Dr Richard Briggs, Lecturer in Old Testament and Director of Biblical Studies at Cranmer Hall, St John's College, Durham.

Saturday November 19th *The Power and the Story - Part 2*

Becoming a Nation (Joshua – 2 Samuel)

Venue: Yeadon Methodist Church, Chapel Hill, Yeadon LS19 7RG

Leader: Revd David Wood, former tutor at York St. John University and Hartley Victoria College, Dean of The West Midlands Ministerial Training Course, and Senior Methodist Tutor for the Queen's Foundation in Birmingham. David has latterly pioneered the North Yorkshire Dales Biblical Literacy Programme.

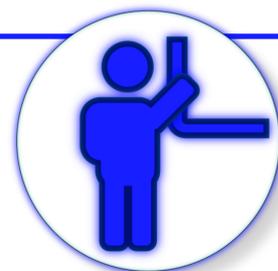
Saturday March 11th *The Power and the Story - Part 3*

Kings and Prophets (Kings 1 and 2 to Zechariah)

Venue: Christchurch, The Grove, Ilkley LS29 9LW

Leader: Revd Dr Richard Briggs.

All sessions are 10.00 for 10.30 to 4.00pm. Please bring a packed lunch. Tea and coffee will be supplied. Course fee £5 per session, payable on the day.



Other Ideas

Perhaps your church could organise an Old Testament Quiz Night or a Treasure Hunt round your local community based on the journey through the Old Testament. Or maybe you could organise a musical evening or concert if you have a singing group that could perform some of the many well known songs from shows based on the Old Testament. Or maybe you could invite members of your church, adult or child, to write a piece on their favourite story or character from the Old Testament for your monthly magazine. Or could you organise a series of craft days or opportunities for creative expression and reflection on the stories of the Old Testament. The possibilities are almost limitless and the benefits for our faith are huge so please find ways of making sure your church talks about it and gets involved.



If you would like to book a place for this event please contact Mike Fawcett on 07885 585946 or via: admin@wharfedaleandaireboroughmethodists.org.uk