



In Search of Vision for Working Life and Politics...

In a society where so many feel themselves to be just passive recipients of the news that continually pours forth from the media, this course offers a space for all sorts of people to come together and explore their views of some of our major public issues. We live in the days of pragmatic politics. The old ideologies have fallen away, government today seeks only “what works”. Where can we find a vision adequate to steer by in our confused post-modern world? By deliberately drawing together a diverse group of people and using a variety of means including group work and storytelling, the course will aim to engage with our own experiences of some of the most important issues of our day. At the same time it will explore 'big picture' understandings of human society and enquire whether the Christian faith can help us to make sense of life. More systematic than our “Conversations” initiative, this course builds session by session towards a new approach to understanding public life and its interaction with the Christian faith. One participant commented,

"Excellent, wide-ranging, novel, non-threatening and informative. It broached many subjects that I have not thought through in a Christian context and stimulated me to integrate these issues into what was quickly becoming an parched and dry Christian mindset."

- The course is designed to demonstrate the relevance of the Christian faith to public life.
- It is intended for people in churches who are looking to understand how their faith interacts with issues at work and with public life in general.
- It is also intended for those without an explicit faith, who are concerned to discuss and debate towards a vision for their society.
- It involves people in a process whereby their own experience of working life and politics is brought into engagement with others and with the Judaeo-Christian scriptures.
- Course material is presented in an accessible style using stories, illustrations and “tellings” (rather than readings) from the Bible.
- An interactive method ensures maximum gain from the expertise of the contributors.
- Illustrations from current world issues provide a global reference.

Session Titles

“Getting at the Truth”

- politics and the media, stories, values and commitments

“Who can be trusted?”

- the key problem in human society

“Realities of business life”

- the struggle for success in a competitive environment

“Putting working life into perspective”

- the place of work among other proper human concerns

“Politics and Power”

- is there such a thing as good politics?

“The person in authority”

- how should they behave?

“On being all washed up”

- the ever-present threat of unemployment and alienation

“So what’s it all about?”

- making sense of public life

How can we do this?

This course will be run by trained and accredited facilitators. Because it is an interactive course and depends on being bang up to date, it is not possible to spread it by means of booklet or video. It runs best in two-hour sessions in a non-church venue, like the function room of a pub and needs around thirty participants, the more diverse the group the better. During 2002 the course will be available in the greater Bristol area, and only further afield by special arrangement. Our first residential training for leaders will take place in Spring 2003 and then we hope to offer it at many locations. People who enjoy leading “Conversations” might consider training to lead the “In Search of Vision” course. Please be in touch if you, or someone you know, might be interested in this training event.



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