



## TAKING GOD ON HOLIDAY WITH US

This summer, allow me to encourage you to make the effort to find a church to attend when you are on holiday. Thanks to the internet it is now easier than ever to locate them near to where you may be staying. There are great spiritual benefits to be had from experiencing worship in different places, cultures and contexts.

I always love attending a different church when we are away and it is an important and enjoyable part of our holiday. I can still vividly remember attending an outside church in the mountains near Klagenfurt, Austria, when I was 13 years young. The smell of the pine forest, the singing in a foreign language all combined to produce the fondest memory of that particular holiday. The après-love meal which the church provided was, back then, for me the best part ... a lovely spread of fresh bread, strawberry jam, fresh meats and cheeses, salivating just writing that.

Participating in a different language can help develop and deepen our understanding of scriptures (they did not originate in English!). With the wide range of other cultures in our own country, even a staycation makes it possible to attend a different experience. We don't have to go abroad to experience this. When we can no longer rely on a common tongue we become more aware of the action, flow and shape of the body of Christ. And parents: with a little research and explanation beforehand, it can also be a good teaching opportunity as we seek to hand our faith on to our children.

I for one certainly recognise that church is much more than just buildings or even words, partly because of my exposure to that Austrian "church-in-a-field".

To be honest, not all these experiences have been positive ones. But even when my explorations go wrong, it helps me to appreciate the more 'my' church and the community that I am privileged to be a part of. There is something reassuringly familiar about the becoming part of a church, wherever you are.

Visiting different communities, whether at home or abroad, provides a wonderful reminder that we belong to a worldwide family. There is a danger if we only ever worship in our own church that our sense of being part of the whole church diminishes.

Visiting churches on holiday can be a way of opening our eyes to a richer and fuller experience of God as we see the same faith lived out in a different way.

I know church on holiday may be difficult when we are in the company of non-Christian friends / family. It can easily feel that our desire to go to church is inconvenient to the precious time of the rest of the group we're with. But done in the right way, attending church when we are away can be a witness to others the importance of our faith. We may even be able to extend a gentle invitation to 'just to see a historic church in action'.

(Holidays) or holy days are God's gift to us. The very name reminds me of their spiritual origin and that they are part of life's rhythm of work and rest. So, whenever possible, worship should be part of our time away.

### We don't take a holiday from God

As you plan your holiday, lookout for the wider part of the body of Christ, (remember, the body isn't all Baptist). If you visit another part of the body, please look out for anything that you think could enhance our own part of His body here at VBC.

Have a blessed holiday, go with God,  
Erik



# podcasts

(Google the title in blue to listen to them)

### MID FAITH CRISIS PODCAST

A podcast for every Christian who has ever asked 'Is that it?' Mid-faith Crisis explores the Christian faith with honesty and humour. If you feel that you have more questions than answers, if you feel as though your faith is changing, if you feel that if the worship leader sings that chorus one more time you will strangle him with his own guitar strap, then this is the podcast for you.

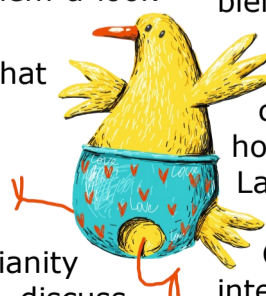
### THE BIBLE BINGE

"The Bible Binge" is a short series of podcast episodes that covers some of the basic stories from the Bible and gives them a look through a contemporary lens.

Be prepared for a fun discussion that holds no punches.

### UNBELIEVABLE?

"Unbelievable?" engages in fundamental questions on Christianity with the intention to openly discuss different opinions between Christians and non-believers.



### SPORTS SPECTRUM

"Sports Spectrum" is hosted by former ESPN producer Jason Romano. Each episode he brings in an athlete, commentator, or Christian thinker who can personally speak to the intersection of faith and sports. Personalities who want to discuss something more than the typical sports talking points. That's pretty cool for any sports fan.

### CULTURE MATTERS

The world around us is constantly changing, from what is available in entertainment to how we interact with the outside world. Some of the best Christian podcasts are those that help bridge the divide between the world and Christ. "Culture Matters" is a podcast from The Village Church that discusses where pop culture, politics, and faith issues collide. The show covers a variety of topics that are making an impact on Christian communities.

### THE BANCROFT BROTHERS - Animation Podcast

Twin animators Tom and Tony Bancroft get together and talk about their Disney Animation past, the present animation business, and the future of animation.

Interviews with talented artists, inspirational words, and wild speculation will help you grow as a person - or not.

### THE FRIENDSHIP ONION

Join your favourite Hobbits, friends and co-stars, Billy Boyd and Dom Monaghan as they take a look back at their time on The Lord of the Rings.

Featuring interviews with cast and crew, diving deep into life behind the scenes, and answering the many fan questions, "The Friendship Onion" will peel back the layers of their friendship, both on screen and off.

### BEER CHRISTIANITY (one for your parents)

Faith, hops and love. "Beer Christianity" blends interviews with thinkers, artists and theologians with good old fashioned pub talk. Because important conversations deserve lubrication. Join host and political/religious writer Jonty Langley as he interviews fascinating people, gets the opinions of reasonable Christians on real issues and drinks an interesting range of unpretentious beers.

Pour a pint or crack open a cold one. Put your feet up and listen your way into a different kind of Christianity.

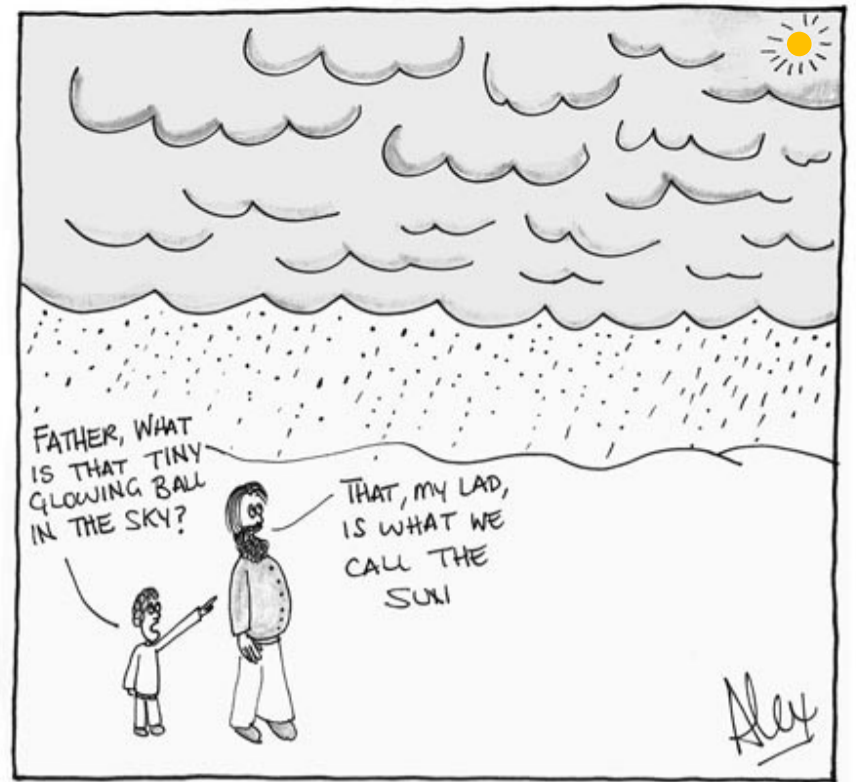
# Choose Your Own Adventure

For each section, you choose which Bible adventure to take! There's enough for one a day throughout the Summer (if you want to do it every day). Read it, think about what you read, pray about it. Circle your choice and then put a checkmark of your choice by the feather when you're done.



Be Blessed as you go on your personal adventure in the Word.

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|  <b>READ A PARABLE</b><br>Unmerciful Servant<br>in Matthew 18:21-35<br>-OR-<br>The Workers<br>in Matthew 20:1-16      |  <b>READ ABOUT A HERO</b><br>Daniel<br>in Daniel 6<br>-OR-<br>David<br>in 1 Samuel 17                                      |  <b>READ ABOUT A QUEEN</b><br>Queen Jezebel<br>in 1 Kings 21<br>-OR-<br>Queen Abigail<br>in 1 Samuel 25                    |  <b>READ FROM PAUL'S LETTERS</b><br>Philippians 4<br>-OR-<br>1 Corinthians 12  |
|  <b>READ A PROPHECY</b><br>Prophecy of Ezekiel<br>in Ezekiel 36:16-37<br>-OR-<br>Prophecy of Amos<br>in Amos 5:1-17 |  <b>READ FROM THE LAW</b><br>Ten Commandments<br>in Deut. 5:1-28<br>-OR-<br>Offer of Life or Death<br>in Deuteronomy 30    |  <b>READ JESUS' TEACHINGS</b><br>On The Poor & Prayer<br>in Matthew 6:1-16<br>-OR-<br>On Money & Worry<br>in Matt. 6:19-28 |  <b>READ ABOUT A JUDGE</b><br>Gideon<br>in Judges 6:1-28<br>-OR-<br>Deborah<br>in Judges 4                               |
|  <b>READ A LETTER</b><br>Written By John<br>in 1 John 3:11-23<br>-OR-<br>Written by James<br>in James 1              |  <b>READ ABOUT A KING</b><br>King Solomon<br>in 1 Kings 3<br>-OR-<br>King Ahaz<br>in 2 Chronicles 28                      |  <b>READ A PSALM OF LAMENT</b><br>Psalm 42<br>-OR-<br>Psalm 77  |  <b>READ ABOUT A KID</b><br>Miriam<br>in Exodus 1-2:8<br>-OR-<br>Josiah<br>in 2 Chronicles 34                             |
|  <b>READ A PSALM OF PRAISE</b><br>Psalm 145<br>-OR-<br>Psalm 32   |  <b>READ FROM ACTS</b><br>Saul's Conversion<br>in Acts 9<br>-OR-<br>Paul in Athens<br>in Acts 17:16-33                   |  <b>READ A PROVERB</b><br>Pick any one of the 31 chapters!<br>Write your choice here:                                    |  <b>READ A MIRACLE</b><br>Old Testament<br>in 1 Kings 17<br>-OR-<br>New Testament<br>in Matthew 14:13-36               |
|  <b>READ FROM THE GOSPELS</b><br>Gospel of John<br>John 4<br>-OR-<br>Gospel of Mark<br>Mark 10:17-30                |  <b>READ A PRAYER</b><br>Nehemiah's Prayer<br>in Nehemiah 1:1-2:6<br>-OR-<br>Pharisee & Tax Collector<br>in Luke 18:9-14 |  <b>READ A CHRISTMAS STORY</b><br>Mary's Story<br>in Luke 1:26-45<br>-OR-<br>Simeon/Anna's Story<br>in Luke 2:25-40      |  <b>READ FROM THE GOSPELS (AGAIN!)</b><br>Gospel of Matthew<br>Matthew 7:1-20<br>-OR-<br>Gospel of Luke<br>Luke 12:13-33 |



THE GREAT BRITISH SUMMER

Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass under trees on a summer's day, listening to the murmur of the water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is by no means a waste of time.

If summer had one defining scent,

It would definitely be the smell of barbecue.

A life without love is like a year without summer

to hear full song of the words below - search on YouTube for **Everybody's Free To Wear Sunscreen**

Enjoy the power and beauty of your youth

**Floss** Don't worry about the future **YOU'RE NOT AS FAT AS YOU IMAGINE**

**DO ONE THING EVERY DAY THAT SCARES YOU** **GET TO KNOW YOUR PARENTS.**

Don't be reckless with other people's hearts, and don't put up with people who are reckless with yours. **STRETCH**

Do not read beauty magazines; they will make you feel ugly. Don't feel guilty if you don't know what to do with your life. **WEAR SUNSCREEN** **DANCE**

remember compliments, forget the insults. **Love** **travel** Sometimes you're ahead Sometimes you're behind

Don't congratulate yourself too much or berate yourself either. **MAYBE YOU'LL MARY, MAYBE YOU WON'T.**

**READ THE DIRECTIONS, EVEN IF YOU WON'T FOLLOW THEM** Keep your old love letters; throw away your old bank statements

be nice to your siblings **RESPECT YOUR ELDERS** **YOU WON'T.**

Don't mess too much with your hair Accept certain inalienable truths