



Helping to develop healthy study skills

We currently run at least eight Study Weekends each year in a number of locations up and down the country. Over the past few months we have been teaching two New Testament text modules on *Galatians* and the *Letters from John*. Both of these modules are to be taught again, at different locations this coming Spring. See elsewhere for details.

It may not always seem to be terribly exciting news to read of yet another Study Weekend having been held in such-and-such a location, but taken in the wider context, it actually is rather exciting. At least it should be rather exciting, though I do understand that the phrase

“Bible study” doesn’t always sound particularly riveting. Perhaps to some, it may even sound a little out-dated in this instant age of the internet where answers to life’s most complex questions are seemingly just a simple click away.

Though the internet may well be a useful tool, it can never take the place of serious, structured study or research built upon a foundation of good practice. We need leaders and teachers to develop healthy study skills and not to rely on an instant and shallow understanding of God’s word at the click of a button.

Those who govern the British Bible School do so with a determination to continue to



John Griffiths teaching the Letters from John at Wembley.

provide some means of structured teaching and flexible training within the U.K. for British congregations and believers to help equip the people of God for the mission of God through the Word of God. Without homegrown teachers and leaders, developing and sharing the skills that are needed to understand the Scriptures and convey their truths, we run the real risk of losing sight of who we are and what is our role in the mission of God today.

History teaches us that in places where there has been no indigenous means for training home-grown leadership, the missional impact has been severely hindered.



Mitch Vick teaching the Letter to the Galatians at East Kilbride in October.

Walking with God

In addition to our Study Weekends, last month we held our first residential Study Week at Bassenthwaite in the northern Lake District. Arriving on the Monday afternoon, classes were held all day from Tuesday to Thursday, with a final session before departure on Friday. It was deliberately an intensive few days of study, covering an entire module, whilst at the same time allowing for plenty of time to enjoy each other's company and to share together in ways God is working in our lives.

Our module for the week was: *Walking with God* - one of our practical modules in which we consider what it might mean to live in fellowship with God on a daily basis. We examined some principles of discipleship as we explored what it can mean to deny ourselves and die daily for Christ. Far from seeing ourselves as being simply members of a group, we were challenged to contemplate the demands of being a disciple of Jesus in our contemporary contexts.

Each day began with our morning devotions together in the lounge. A good selection of



Some very attentive students!

food was served at mealtimes, and all attendees took their turn helping with setting up, clearing away and washing up. The tea/coffee bar proved a popular venue for congregating between classes and at other free times, and evenings were spent in a relaxing manner. We had a games evening, enjoyed a quiz and watched a film together.

On the Thursday afternoon we had a brief walk in the surrounding area. Half of the group enjoyed a three mile level stroll, past the village and towards Bassenthwaite Lake. The underlying ground proved to be a bit muddy at one point, but all made it through unscathed.

This proved to be most worthwhile for all involved, so much so that we are making plans for another, similar event, next year.

Diary dates ...

Study one of our Modules at our Study Events or come to our Family Retreats ...

Bassenthwaite Family Retreat

Lake District, England

'Anywhere with Jesus'

19th to 21st January 2018

Aberdeen Study Weekend

Aberdeen, Scotland

Galatians

with **Jack Paton and Mitch Vick**

2nd to 3rd March 2018

13th to 14th April 2018

Northampton Study Weekend

Northampton, Northamptonshire

Letters from John

with **John Griffiths and Steve Whitehead**

Dates t.b.c.

Letton Hall Family Retreat

Dereham, Norfolk

'I want to know Jesus'

14th to 16th September 2018

Bassenthwaite Study Week

Lake District, England

The Conquest and Settlement of Canaan ~ Joshua

5th to 9th November 2018

Please see web site for more dates and more details.

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Some of those who attended our recent residential Study Week