

**—THE—**  
**VALUES**  
**PROJECT**

**INTRODUCTORY GUIDE &  
FACILITATOR'S NOTES**



# INTRODUCTION

Welcome to The Values Project – a resource that promotes conversation about our Baptist values.

In a post-institutional and post-denominational era, many leaders, staff and members of Baptist organisations and churches are unaware of the values that underpin the historical and cultural backbone of their organisations. Others, especially those who have been around Baptist circles for a while, may struggle to identify and articulate these values. This may be problematic, particularly when groups make decisions, set directions and work in cohesive teams.

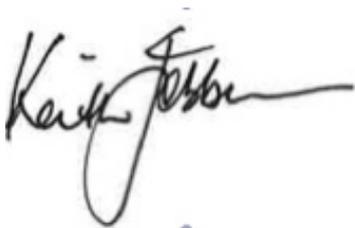
The Values Project addresses this gap by enabling a conversation that informs, inspires and embeds the values deeper into our organisations and churches.

When the values are well-grasped, we experience many benefits, including:

- ✔ strengthening our shared identity as a diverse movement,
- ✔ developing our capacity to make thoughtful, focused decisions,
- ✔ enhancing our connectedness and unity.

All of these contribute towards our organisations and churches being vibrant, healthy and focused on the mission to which God has called us.

I commend The Values Project to you and pray that it may strengthen and enhance your ministry, as you undertake the wonderful work of serving Jesus in our world.



**Keith Jobberns**

**Australian Baptist Ministries, 2019**

# USERS

The project is designed for groups who want to deepen their awareness of Baptist Values and to understand how they shape their decisions and practices. These groups include:

- ✔ Boards, leadership and staff teams of affiliated Baptist organisations
- ✔ Church and ministry leadership teams
- ✔ Church small groups
- ✔ Church congregations

## A CONSIDERATION OF TIMING

The simple format of a short video and discussion allows each session to be addressed in approximately 30 minutes, plus around 15 minutes each for the introduction and conclusion discussion. Therefore boards, ministry teams or small groups may choose to address one value each during a portion of business or team meetings over a period of a month (if meeting weekly), a quarter (if meeting fortnightly) or a year (if meeting quarterly). Alternatively, you may choose to dedicate a two-and-a-half period and work through the entire project in one sitting. If time is particularly short, you may divide a group into four subgroups to address one each and feed back to the larger group, however this is the least preferred option.

# PROGRAM

When using the resource in a group setting, the following can be used as a guide.

- ✔ Introductory discussion to explore the background and understandings of group members.
- ✔ *Session 1* – ‘Jesus-centred’ – Video and discussion
- ✔ *Session 2* – ‘Community’ – Video and discussion
- ✔ *Session 3* – ‘Mission’ – Video and discussion
- ✔ *Session 4* – ‘Freedom’ – Video and discussion
- ✔ Discussion to conclude

# DESCRIPTION OF RESOURCES

**Videos** – The four episodes range between 4 and 5 minutes. A brief introduction and conclusion are repeated in each clip to accommodate groups who may divide into subgroups and to support groups who have a long break between sessions. The episodes can be viewed online or downloaded.

**Discussion Guide** – The accompanying discussion guide provides a dot point summary and five discussion prompts for groups. This resource is provided in a number of formats to suit your needs:

- ✔ A PDF of the whole document (12 pages) for download and printing, or accessing via laptops, tablets or phones. This is ideal for groups doing all sessions in one sitting.
- ✔ A PDF for each session (2-3 pages), and another 2 pages for introduction and conclusion. This can be downloaded and printed or accessible on laptops, tablets or phones. This is designed for groups who do the sessions over a longer period of time, or for those who divide into subgroups.
- ✔ A PowerPoint presentation of the key ideas and discussion questions.

**Script** – For those who would like to follow along with the videos, or pre-read or re-read, the scripts are available for download. These are available as one full PDF document, or each session individually.

# GROUP FACILITATION

## The following tips may assist in preparation:

- ✔ Introduce your rationale for participating in The Values Project
- ✔ Keep time boundaries
- ✔ Limit group size to eight participants
- ✔ Ensure there are enough discussion guides for each participant
- ✔ Download the videos and ensure the audio system is adequate

As facilitator, you play a critical role in managing the group in order to ensure participants can effectively engage with the ideas and each other. Before you begin, familiarise yourself with the material and consider specific current issues, decisions, challenges and tasks of your group.

While worded slightly differently, you'll notice that the discussion guide follows a consistent format for each session:

- ✔ The **key ideas** summarise the main points of the session. Ask a participant to read these to the group.
- ✔ The **first question** aims to gain people's initial responses, reactions and feelings to the material presented in the video.
- ✔ The **second question** focuses on the challenges of responding to the value in your current context.
- ✔ The **third question** invites people to consider the ways in which the value positions us well to respond positively within our context.
- ✔ The **fourth question** encourages participants to consider examples of how the

value impacts and shapes your organisation or church's decisions and practices.

- ✔ The **fifth question** provides an opportunity for you to work with one specific, current issue that is particularly relevant for your group and discuss the relationship of the value to the issue. The more integrated and applied the discussion is to your current context, the more effective it will be. This conversation may lead to specific actions and outcomes.

## Variations for church settings

Pastors can use The Values Project during services, by playing the video as an introduction to a sermon on the topics. Sermon notes are provided on the website to assist you in this. You may encourage small groups to watch the video again and discuss the questions to reinforce the concepts.

## Variations for individuals

The Values Project can be useful as part of an induction and orientation program for new ministry team members, board members and church members. This is particularly helpful for members who join a group after the group has done the project together. This is best done with one other person, perhaps a mentor or leader, as it is the discussion that is most important in order to address the group's context.

## Variations for dispersed teams

Being an online resource, The Values Project is easily done online using Zoom or other forums. The facilitator can screenshare the video and use the accompanying PowerPoint to support the discussion.

# FURTHER EXPLORATION

The following resources will help you deepen your understanding of the values described in The Values Project. They will provide valuable background information for the group discussions or sermon material. If you discover further helpful resources, please let us know so we can grow the resource list for others in our communities.

- ✔ [Baptist history at a glance](https://www.baptist.org.au/about-us/#where) – <https://www.baptist.org.au/about-us/#where> – videos, downloads and synopsis of Baptist history in Australia
- ✔ [400 Years, The History of the Baptist Church](https://www.baptist.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/400-Years-The-History-of-the-Baptist-Church.pdf) – <https://www.baptist.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/400-Years-The-History-of-the-Baptist-Church.pdf> – a PDF booklet, also available in print from Australian Baptist Ministries
- ✔ [Baptist History Australia](http://www.baptisthistory.org.au) – [www.baptisthistory.org.au](http://www.baptisthistory.org.au) – comprehensive information and resources.
- ✔ [From Woolloomooloo to Eternity: A history of Australian Baptist](#) – A comprehensive, two-volume work by K. Manley, available from online bookshops.
- ✔ [From Five Barley Loaves](https://www.globalinteraction.org.au/resources/publications/five-barley-loaves) – <https://www.globalinteraction.org.au/resources/publications/five-barley-loaves> - An account of Australian Baptist pioneering work in Global Mission.
- ✔ [Three ways to learn from early Baptists about political theology](https://erlc.com/resource-library/articles/3-ways-to-learn-from-early-baptists-about-political-theology) – <https://erlc.com/resource-library/articles/3-ways-to-learn-from-early-baptists-about-political-theology> – an article published by the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission
- ✔ [Statements of belief](https://www.baptist.org.au/about-us/#believe) – <https://www.baptist.org.au/about-us/#believe> – common theological statements which describe core beliefs.
- ✔ [Baptists in Australia](https://repository.divinity.edu.au/1340/1/Baptists_in_Australia.pdf) – [https://repository.divinity.edu.au/1340/1/Baptists\\_in\\_Australia.pdf](https://repository.divinity.edu.au/1340/1/Baptists_in_Australia.pdf) – a 100 page, free ebook authored by D Cronshaw and R Hughes.

# FURTHER STUDY

Four values were selected for The Values Project, however you may choose to extend the discussion to include others.

## Opportunities for further reading and study

The Values Project may also inspire some of your participants to dig deeper into Baptist Distinctives. Our theological colleges offer one-unit courses in Baptist Distinctives. To find out more visit:

- ✔ **NSW/ACT** – ‘Denominational Distinctives’ – [www.morling.edu.au](http://www.morling.edu.au)
- ✔ **VIC/TAS** – ‘Baptist Identity’ – [www.whitley.edu.au](http://www.whitley.edu.au)
- ✔ **QLD** – ‘Denominational Distinctives: Baptist’ – [www.malyon.edu.au](http://www.malyon.edu.au)
- ✔ **WA** – ‘Denominational Distinctives’ – [www.vose.edu.au](http://www.vose.edu.au)
- ✔ **SA/NT** – [www.sabaptist.asn.au](http://www.sabaptist.asn.au) (some sessions offered as part of pastoral training formation)

# THE VALUES PROJECT TEAM

We are grateful for the contributions of the team who made the project possible:

- ✔ **Leader** - Rev. Keith Jobberns
- ✔ **Sponsors** -  
Baptist Insurance Services [www.baptistinsurance.com.au](http://www.baptistinsurance.com.au)  
Baptist Financial Services [www.bfs.org.au](http://www.bfs.org.au)  
Baplink (QLD) [www.baplink.org.au](http://www.baplink.org.au)
- ✔ **Project manager** – Susan Campbell
- ✔ **Script writer** – Rev. Dr Melinda Cousins
- ✔ **Presenters** – Rev. Nic Cassar, Sheree Chambers, Fiona Cole, Marbuen Diaz
- ✔ **Video** – Tim Lynn, [www.sbimedia.com.au](http://www.sbimedia.com.au)
- ✔ **Graphic & Web Design** – Sheree Chambers, [www.brugel.com.au](http://www.brugel.com.au)

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