

MASTERCLASS

ADELAIDE

TUESDAY
14 AUGUST
2018

Are you invested in training up the next generation of public Christians?

Is it your passion to give young Christians confidence in their faith?

Simon Smart

Executive Director,
Centre for Public
Christianity (CPX)

It's a girl! Is the Christian gospel good news for women?

Justine Toh

Senior Research Fellow,
Centre for Public
Christianity (CPX)

My story, our story, God's story

Richard Shumack

Research Fellow,
Centre for Public
Christianity (CPX)

What is true Islam, and who is my Muslim neighbour?

Masterclass, run by Bible Society Australia, is a one-day event for Christian students in years 9-12 of high school. The goal of Masterclass is to inspire, stretch and encourage the next generation of believers.

*"that **your love may abound** more and more **in knowledge and depth of insight**, so that you may **be able to discern what is best...**"*
Philippians 1:9

Three highly engaging speakers present on a variety of topics, with a threefold goal based on Paul's prayer above:

- **Foundational teaching** to build the students' confidence in the bible with evidence for the truths of the Christian faith;
- **Missional teaching** to encourage young Christians to live out their faith in their schools, churches, communities and homes; and
- **Topical teaching** to explore contemporary issues of faith and culture from a biblical perspective.

"Masterclass aims to challenge students on what they believe, why they believe it, and how this intersects with their world." – Past attendee of Masterclass

**With
Hot Topics
Q&A**

Edwardstown Baptist Church

Cnr Rothesay Avenue & Dorene Street, St Marys
Starts at 9:15am. Finishes at 2:30pm.

Tuesday 14 August

This is a **FREE** event

Register at www.masterclass.org.au

SPEAKERS AND TOPICS



Simon Smart
Foundational

Simon is Executive Director of the Centre for Public Christianity. A former English and history teacher, Simon has a Masters in Christian Studies from Regent College, Canada. He has years of experience in writing and editing, both academic curricula and popular books. He is the author of *For God's Sake: An Atheist, a Jew, a Christian and a Muslim Debate Religion*, and editor of *A Spectator's Guide to Worldviews*. Simon is co-host of the documentary *For the Love of God: How the Church is Better and Worse Than You Ever Imagined*.

Simon lives on Sydney's Northern Beachers. He is a sports tragic and an enthusiastic but inept surfer. He has two teenaged children who still don't mind being seen with him in public!

It's a girl! Is the Christian gospel good news for women?

Abstract: Early Christianity was mocked as a religion of women and slaves – that is to say, not to be taken seriously. But Christianity is much more likely to be condemned today, not for being a religion for women, but a religion against women. If gender equality mattered to the early church, what happened to it? What does Christianity's chequered treatment of women mean for its credibility today? And is the Christian faith a force for the oppression of women, or for their flourishing?

In this session Simon will consider Biblical, historical and cultural material in order to try to make sense of the sometimes troubled relationship between women and the Christian Faith.



Justine Toh
Missional

Justine is Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for Public Christianity where she speaks and writes about the Christian faith in a secular age, with a particular interest in freedom and individualism, and trends in contemporary culture. She has a doctorate in Cultural Studies from Macquarie University and a Bachelor of Arts in Communications (Journalism) from UTS. After getting her start in the Sydney Reuters bureau, she worked as a presenter at Fairfax Digital. Justine is co-host of the documentary *For the Love of God: How the Church is Better and Worse Than You Ever Imagined*.

Justine lives in Sydney with her husband Vaughan and her two little boys who she still adores, even though they've broken her brain.

My story, our story, God's story

Abstract: In a world that encourages us to be the author of our own stories, collecting experiences as part of the great 'project of self', we discuss what it means to take up our role in the greatest story ever told: the cosmic drama of God's redemption. We then consider how this can inspire us to live countercultural lives—particularly in areas like sex and relationships, power, purpose and freedom.



Richard Shumack
Topical

Richard is a Christian philosopher specialising in belief. He is interested in how and why people believe what they do – especially about God. He has lived and worked among Muslim communities in Australia and overseas.

Richard is a research fellow at the Centre for Public Christianity and the Director of Melbourne School of Theology's Islamic Studies programme. He speaks on Christian engagement with Islam at schools, universities and seminaries.

Richard lives in Sydney with his wife, Judy, and their four boys. He loves eating curry, playing and coaching AFL football, and loves and hates golf.

What is true Islam, and who is my Muslim neighbour?

Abstract: Islam is no longer a distant, foreign faith in Australia. All of us have Muslim friends, classmates and sporting teammates. But what do they believe? The media sends us very mixed messages about this, being full of stories about Muslim terrorism on one hand, and Islamophobia on the other. Some say that Islam is inherently violent; others that it is peaceful. Which is true? This session explains the basic beliefs of Muslims and why you shouldn't be scared of your Muslim neighbour, and why it is super-easy to talk to Muslim friends about Jesus.

If you are a principal, teacher, chaplain, youth leader or parent, Bible Society is asking you to invite students who would benefit from a day to invest in their spiritual development. Masterclass will better prepare them to be public Christians who have confidence within their schools and community.

There is no limit to the size of your group. Book this date with your school and register your student and teacher numbers at **www.masterclass.org.au**.

Contact Gayle Baikie for any enquiries at **masterclass@biblesociety.org.au** or 02 9870 5636

"My students loved it, found every talk helpful and relevant for their Christian faith and expression of it in their lives and at school. Encouraging to see so many other Christian students!"
— Past attendee of Masterclass

Masterclass Partners



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