MAKES YOU WONDER

*Makes You Wonder* by Rev Dr Ian Robinsonis a treasure trove. These exercises will help you grow a faith that is authentic and infectious. Based upon the very successful *Gossiping the Gospel*, it now expands and updates in three completely new formats. These discovery-based exercises have proven effective in many settings and cultures.

*Makes You Wonder* will help you…

* To find your own voice in sharing the faith that you have at the moment
* To develop confidence in the power of being simply yourself
* To realise afresh how great a gospel we have received
* To find fresh and biblical ways to share these discoveries in small steps with those who have no church background.
* To lead with authenticity in other courses like Alpha, Living the Questions, etc.

*MAKES YOU WONDER* **is in seven sections.**

The first four sections include about sixty exercises that can be used in a **leadership training series**. You can also take out one exercise to fit into your own agenda as a stand alone. Each is ten sessions.

The fifth section, the LEADERS RESOURCES section is free to all. Download from [www.talltrees.org.au](http://www.talltrees.org.au).

The last two sections rearrange the ‘Story’ exercises above and add other material in a **small group** format. Section six is the WONDER WORKSHOPS for non-churched people. The seventh section is the PURPLE COW WORKSHOPS for church small groups who want to explore and share.

1. MY STORYHow can we grow to become more authentic ? What is my own faith that I am ready to share? How can we be more hospitable ? What are the beautiful gifts we offer when we share our own faith story? How can we do this with respect and gentleness?
2. **YOUR STORY** Where can we see God at work in others’ lives? How can we interpret that and help them to see how BIG god is? What is happening around us that bears the fingerprints of God?
3. OUR STORY How has Christianity impacted this culture, so easily taken for granted? What is the church and where does it come from? What is spirituality in general and its main forms? This module is also good as Professional Development for those who work in church schools and agencies but who are not themselves affiliated with a church.
4. THE STORY What makes Jesus so special? What are the two models used by Jesus and the apostles to present the gospel ? How can we respond when people ask the really tough questions?

# RESOURCES In the fifth section, the LEADERS RESOURCES will help you to use all this material in your church or group. Training Trainers notes are included and you are encouraged to find ways to use these exercises that we have never thought of. Several blog sites have been set up to encourage specific feedback, response and collaboration. Details on the website.

*Makes You Wonder* is also structured in bite-sized topics for small groups of 5-6 weeks duration. THERE are about fifteen topics in formation, arranged in WONDER WORKSHOPS and PURPLE COW WORKSHOPS. The latter are for church small groups. Some of it works in church services also. It is better if group leaders do the *Makes You Wonder* course first, but it is not absolutely necessary, just better.

# WONDER WORKSHOPS

*Each of these small group series is a discovery-based and open ended conversation, suitable for small groups of non-christians, e.g. parents of church playgroups or kids groups, youth and young adults, staff in a church-auspiced agency, op-shop or school. Each of the following is five or six sessions.*

1. The Smell of God– some things we sought of knew already
2. Deeper Water **–** strength for the soul.
3. FORTHCOMING The Passions of Jesus – what spurred Jesus on? Five core passages in a shared research exercise
4. Max Doubt - There are only four major questions/doubts.
5. The Glass – Who do you trust and how do you know? Macchievalli or Yhwh?
6. FORTHCOMING What’s Christianity Ever Done for Us **–** western culture’s debt to Jesus ***in*** Education, Ethics, Science, Health and Welfare and The Arts
7. FORTHCOMING A Faith-Based Organisation**-** what is the church and how does it work? What is its Family Tree? Is it’s decline terminal?

# PURPLE COW WORKSHOPS

*Each of these small group series is a collection of exercises and bible studies on bite-sized topics. They help participants to find their voice and their own words to share their own faith in adult conversations in their own worlds. Each of the following is five or six sessions.*

1. The Purple Cow – Why should anyone notice your message?
2. The B!G Idea **-**– how to be an international Holy Spirit movement.
3. Turn the Page – recapture the biblical patterns for evangelism.
4. ACE of hearts **– A**uthentic Community Engagement
5. Unguarded– how to be your Christian self in your world
6. New Love New Courage – where would I be without Jesus?
7. Hearts on Fire – equip the different parts of the church for different parts
8. FORTHCOMING - Good and Angry – who did Jesus confront and why?

**Further information and download of Leaders Resources are on**

<http://makesyouwonder.yolasite.com> or go through www.talltrees.org.au

**Your feedback on *Makes You Wonder* is an essential part of this open ended process.**