

# MAKES YOU WONDER

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*Makes You Wonder* by Rev Dr Ian Robinson ([idtr@westnet.com.au](mailto:idtr@westnet.com.au)) is a treasure trove. The exercises will help you grow a faith that is authentic and infectious and sort of 'normal'. The train-the-trainers process aims to have two trained facilitators in ever congregation in Australia and the Pacific.



How is **MYW unique** among a forest of faith-sharing resources?

It is unique in three ways. Its method is discovery-based and practised in authenticity to grow authenticity, the method most suitable for adult education. It is unique in content, offering a series of options and approaches, allowing persons to find their own voice, a content most suitable for a pluralist context. Thirdly, it works, that's pretty different. They have proven effective in many settings and cultures.

Many have written about new structures, fresh expressions of the church and the need for a re-imagined evangelism. Good. This offers us new options for the already-competent but no one is getting close to what MYW actually does - to provide exercises that actually develop that discipleship. MYW trusts the participants more, fosters their own skills and helps them find their own voice. It takes time. It is not a 'silver bullet', but it comes in bite-sized chunks that means you can feel you're making progress in just thirty minutes.

*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 be confident to lead with more authenticity in any 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, with guidance, stories and graphics and is free to all. Download from [the makes you wonder website](#).

**The last two sections** rearrange the 'Story' exercises above and add other material to create 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.

**MY STORY** How 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?

**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?

**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.

**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?

**LEADERS RESOURCES** will help you to use all this material in your church or group. Find ways to use these exercises that we have never thought of. Make it your own. Several blog sites have been set up to encourage specific feedback, response and collaboration. Details on the website.

#### **WONDER WORKSHOPS**

Several small group series in a discovery-based, open ended conversation, suitable for non-christians.

#### **PURPLE COW WORKSHOPS**

Several small group series in a collection of exercises and bible studies on bite-sized topics.

**More info, sample exercises, videos and free Leaders Resources on the website.**

## **TRAINING LEADERS FOR MYW - INTRODUCTORY SUBSCRIPTION 2016-17**

Well, we are trying to upskill those whose natural tendency is to talk too much and those whose tendency is to say too little. A listening responsive personal leader can help a group discover many things. The goal is to raise the confidence and authenticity of church leadership in their faith-sharing and facilitation. That requires ongoing contact, therefore we have adopted A SUBSCRIPTION MODEL.

### **How can you connect as a LEADER of Makes You Wonder?**

If you undergo MYW *Training The Trainer* face to face workshops (TTT) you can pay \$50. If you decide then to **opt in** to be trained as a leader, you pay another \$50 which is a **subscription for two years**. In other words, the full cost of subs is **AUS\$100**. These are personal not parish subscriptions and your email goes on a register of leaders held by Ian Robinson. You are then sent an online code and can access:

- All the *Makes You Wonder* series and small group exercises as downloads.
- **Plus** you are asked to forward an annual donation, calculated as \$10 per head for participants in workshop sessions (outside of the normal worship service). We imagine this will be asked of the participants themselves, not from your pocket nor from church budgets.
- Using the email register, Ian holds **regular webinars** for leaders – we will go through the material, exercise by exercise, and discuss any issues. This will commence February 2016.
- International prices are different – contact me (below).
- Free mentor-conversations when you book them by email.
- By subscribing you undertake to:
  - Initiate and lead MYW exercises or workshops or parts thereof
  - Provide feedback to the MYW blog-sites (see website for blog addresses)
- With experience, some leaders will show great enthusiasm and capacity for MYW. At the end of each year, you may apply to become an ASSOCIATE, who will 'train the trainers' also. I expect to find people who do this better than me, and lift it higher.

I hope it is clear why we do it this way. Clearly we are in cost-recovery only with these fees. I hope you get excited about this world-class resource that actually makes a difference.

Read the website <http://makesyouwoOnder.yolasite.com>

Contact Ian Robinson [idtr@westnet.com.au](mailto:idtr@westnet.com.au)

[Currently at University of WA, in February starting as Alan Walker lecturer at United Theological College NSW.](#)