



**Uniting Church in Australia**  
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

# Unit Outline

*VTTS002 Exploring Christology*

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equipping Leadership *for Mission*



Welcome to the ***Exploring Christology*** Unit. In this document you will find details about the Unit, the assessment and other helpful information.

This Unit has been developed to be a time of discipleship-forming, faith-expanding fellowship, as well as fun.

*This Unit is an indispensable resource for individuals and church study groups who want to learn more about Christ, and the study of Christ known as Christology.*

The Unit is also foundational for Lay Preachers, Worship Leaders, Mission Workers, and people engaged in other forms of Christian Leadership. The Unit will integrate the study of Christology with the study of scripture, history, images, and song.

You are encouraged to approach your studies with a positive attitude and a willingness to be open to learning. Remember, don't be daunted by what lies ahead, as help will be available to you along the way.

Thanks again for committing this time to your journey of understanding.

May it be a time of learning, with some challenge, and a time of deepening faith in God.

## **MODES OF LEARNING**

Your Presbytery may offer different modes of learning:

- Individual
- Face-to-face groups
- Online groups
- A mixture of all or some of the above

Talk with the person who looks after education in your Presbytery and find out how what learning modes are available.

**HOURS OF ENGAGEMENT FOR FULL UNIT:** 66 hours (11 Topics x 5 to 6 hours; + an optional project-based Topic) – not including Biblical reading. Generally, it is expected it would take someone 5-6 months to work through the Unit. While it can be completed in less time, this is not recommended. The study of Christology is best undertaken in a mindful and reflective manner, where participants continually seek to connect their study to their faith, their ministry and the world around them.

**EXPECTATIONS OF ADULT LEARNERS:**

- Participants will have computer abilities in research, assignment writing, and electronic submission **OR** will work alongside someone who can assist them with these tasks.
- Participants will take responsibility for their own learning – ask questions when uncertain or are unsure about what is required of them. Manage their time well/efficiently. Read the learning and assessment Task questions carefully. Read the Unit Outline carefully to ensure they are familiar with all requirements for the Unit. Seek assistance from their Presbytery, peers, identified local mentors/tutors.

**NOTE:** These materials were originally put together to provide an ongoing resource for those studying Lay Preaching, particularly in remote areas. As such, there are more links and readings than someone would be expected to engage with as they work through the Unit the first time. Make sure you keep within recommended time limits – allowing some give and take for your own ways and needs for studying – while still engaging with the material in a way that gives you the depth and breadth you need. Remember, if you download all the material, you can come back to it later. 😊

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# INTRODUCTION

## OBJECTIVE

This Unit introduces participants to the study of Christology and its questions. A key theme is the question that Jesus poses to Peter: ***“Who do you say that I am?”***

And the subsequent Christological questions:

***“Who is Jesus Christ for us today? And Who is Jesus Christ for others?”***

This Unit acts as a foundation for understanding the person, work, and purposes of Jesus Christ. The Unit is closely integrated with the study of scripture, and historical and contemporary scholarship.

This Unit in Christology is an invitation to Unit participants to deepen their response to and faith in Jesus Christ.

## OUTCOMES and COMPETENCIES

At the completion of this Unit, participants should be able to:

1. discuss the life and work of Jesus of Nazareth.
2. discuss the role and function of Jesus as the Christ.
3. commence what will become an ongoing response to the questions: Who is Jesus Christ for me today? And who is Jesus Christ for others?
4. support the above discussions and responses with biblical material, Christological scholarship and personal, group and contextual reflection in the light of contemporary images, understandings and cultural Christologies.
5. confidently prepare, present and lead people through issues in both the Biblical and historical understanding of Christ.

## CONTENT

Christological questions and historical development

The ministry and mission of Jesus

Images of the Christ

Christ and the church

Why did Jesus die?

The work of salvation and atonement

The resurrection and its meaning

Christology in context

Christ in the Uniting Church in Australia

Jesus Christ and Religious Pluralism

## **SUMMARY OF ASSESSMENT TASKS**

- A. Reflective response
- B. Response to a specific question
- C. Choose songs and/or images for use in a service of worship – alternative assessment
- D. Essay- alternative assessment

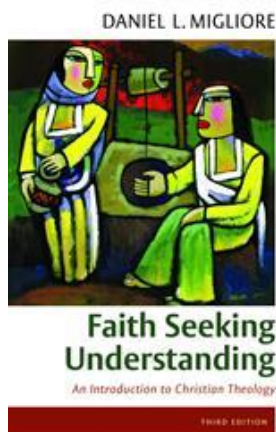
## **The Unit allows participants to engage in MULTIPLE LEVELS OF INVOLVEMENT:**

1. The person, or group, who wishes to dip into all, or part, of this Unit to create or supplement Bible studies/group studies, etc. You are encouraged to use the materials, including assessment questions, in creative ways that provide opportunities for faith and discipleship growth.
2. The person wishing to study, update, or refresh their understanding but not seeking formal accreditation – perhaps a Lay Preacher looking for some continuing education. To deepen your learning experience, you are encouraged to work through the activities, readings, and reflections in the Topics, and to complete the Task A assessments for your own learning or for assessment.
3. The person wishing to explore the Unit for their own learning, or to meet the academic requirements for the Specified Ministry of Lay Preacher - i.e. the person seeking formal accreditation. You will need to work through the activities, readings, and reflections in the Topics, **and** to complete all Task A and Task B assessments.
4. **Your Presbytery** may choose Task C and Task D as alternative assessment pieces to Task A and/or Task B. Please ensure you are clear which assessment Tasks your Presbytery expects you to complete, particularly if you are undertaking the Unit for accreditation purposes.

## Unit Learning Materials

1) The key text for this Unit which all participants are required to have:

***Faith Seeking Understanding: An Introduction to Christian Theology*** (3<sup>rd</sup> edition) by Daniel Migliore, Grand Rapids: Wm Eerdmans Publishing Co, 2014. \*



Copies can be purchased online – try [www.booko.com.au](http://www.booko.com.au) to find current sellers and prices, or check at Christian bookstores. The text can also be purchased as an Kindle e-book for download from [Amazon.com.au](http://Amazon.com.au). If using Kindle, please follow headings to access your readings.

*Faith Seeking Understanding* is also used for the Unit “Exploring Theology from a UCA Perspective”.

\* NOTE: if you already have a copy of Migliore’s *Faith Seeking Understanding, 2nd Edition*, you may use it for this Unit. [Daniel Migliore, *Faith Seeking Understanding, 2nd Ed.*, Grand Rapids: Wm Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2004.]

2) For those with a particular interest in images of Christ and their use, the following is an excellent book:

*Seeing Our Faith – Creative Ideas for Working with Images of Christ (with CD ROM)* by Janet Hodgson, Canterbury Press, Norwich, 2011.

**Migliore form the basis of the Unit and you will find it very useful.**

Topics have a relevant chapter/section from Migliore, or a different reading and it is important that you read this chapter/section/reading.

- **Other readings** for the Unit are also provided. **There are two types of readings for each Topic – one type are theological readings and the other comes from a more spiritual viewpoint.**
- There are also reference materials and you will find them helpful in terms of providing viewpoints which differ from Migliore. You may need to use some of these readings in your assessments.
- Migliore has a great glossary of theological terms at the end of his book – be sure to make use of this. You are encouraged to begin developing your own glossary as you discover new words and terms.