



*For Such a*  
**Time as This**

Friday 25th February 2022 | St Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney

# Meet Our Speakers



## Jo Gibbs

Jo Gibbs is the CEO of Anglican Deaconess Ministries, an organisation committed to equipping and engaging women to serve Christ in the Church, the community and the world. After completing an MDiv at SMBC, she then served with her family with CMS in a South Asian megacity for 11 years. Returning to Australia she then served at St John's Beecroft before moving to St Paul's Castle Hill. Throughout her work and ministry she has focused on encouraging women for gospel ministry, and making spaces for women to use their God-given gifts. Jo is married to Mike and they have two children. On a day off she can be found listening to a podcast, going for a run, or having a walk near the water.



## Rob Smith

Rob Smith lectures in theology, ethics and music ministry at Sydney Missionary & Bible College and is an Honorary Assistant Minister at St Andrew's Cathedral. Rob is also a singer, songwriter and producer for Emu Music, the co-author of *Songs of the Saints: Enriching our Singing by Learning from the Songs of Scripture* (Matthias Media, 2017) and the author of *Come, Let Us Sing: A Call to Musical Reformation* (Latimer Trust, 2020). He is currently completing doctoral studies in the history and theology of sex, gender and transgender. He is married to Claire, and they have an adult son and daughter-in-law.



## Jenny Brown

Dr Jenny Brown is Director Emeritus of the Family Systems Institute (FSI) in Sydney and is the founder of the Parent Hope Project. She has over 35 years' clinical experience in child, couple, and family health. Her primary clinical and research interest has been in family, relationships and mental health. Jenny authored the books *Growing Yourself Up*, *Confident Parenting* and co-edited *Bowen Theory in Christian Ministry*. Jenny has been married to David for 41 years and rejoices in her adult children and grandchildren. She loves gathering with her church family to explore the depths of God's mercy. In her spare time, she enjoys her small garden and walking with her dog.

# Schedule

**9.50**

Livestream begins

**10.00**

Welcome

**10.15**

Bible Talk: The God We Know — Jo Gibbs

**10.45**

Short break

**10.50**

Have I the Right to be Who I Am? — Rob Smith

## **11.30 MORNING TEA**

**12.00**

When Dreams are Broken in the Family — Jenny Brown

**12.40**

Panel

*Text questions to 0414 513 013*

**1.15**

Thank you for joining us

# The God We Know

Jo Gibbs

## ▶ John 1:1-18 (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup> Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

<sup>9</sup> The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognise him. <sup>11</sup> He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— <sup>13</sup> children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

<sup>14</sup> The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

<sup>15</sup> (John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, "This is the one I spoke about when I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup> Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. <sup>17</sup> For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

 **Notes**

# *Have I the Right to Be Who I Am?*

## The Contemporary Search for Identity

Rob Smith

### ▶ Introduction

Who do you think you are?

### ▶ 1. Approaches to Identity

a) The traditional approach

b) The modern approach

c) Synthesis: a better way

d) Missing the heart of the matter

### ▶ 2. Viewing Ourselves Through Biblical Lenses

a) We are wondrously created

**b) We are pervasively fallen**

**c) We are mercifully redeemed**

**d) We will be gloriously resurrected**

### **▶ 3. Implications for the Present Hour**

**a) The contemporary identity obsession**

**b) The current war against biology**

**c) The pressure to alter our bodies**

**d) Contentment and service**

### **▶ Conclusion**

Being who you are in Christ

# *When Dreams Are Broken in the Family*

Jenny Brown

- ▶ **How family dreams and hopes are shaped**
- ▶ **What is helpful about these hopes?**
- ▶ **How might we inadvertently sabotage what we hope for?**
- ▶ **What happens when our hopes are dashed?**



- ▶ **Example of seeing a child's potential collapsing**
  
- ▶ **Recovering our footings after loss and disappointment**
  
- ▶ **Learning to know and love Jesus — how this lessens our heart idols**

**Speaker links & resources:**

[www.parentproject.com.au](http://www.parentproject.com.au)

[www.thefsp.com.au](http://www.thefsp.com.au)

[www.jennybrown.info](http://www.jennybrown.info)

**Resources on heart idols and dealing with loss and fear**

[www.timothykeller.com](http://www.timothykeller.com)

# Panel Discussion Notes

Jo Gibbs, Rob Smith, Jenny Brown

▶ Text questions to 0414 513 013 ◀

# Notes

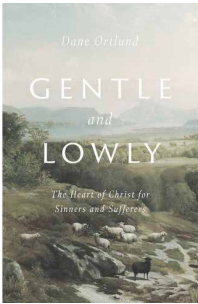
**Audio and Video of this  
Seminar will be available:**

 [soundcloud.com/mothersunionsydney](https://soundcloud.com/mothersunionsydney)

 [vimeo.com/mothersunionsydney](https://vimeo.com/mothersunionsydney)

# Book Recommendations

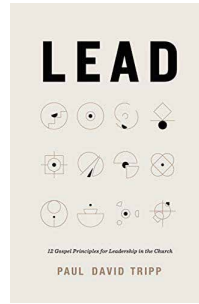
## Jo Gibbs



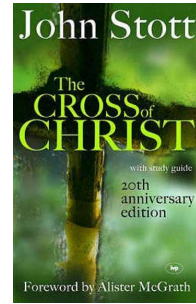
**Gentle and Lowly**  
(Dane C. Ortlund)



**None like him**  
(Jen Wilkin)

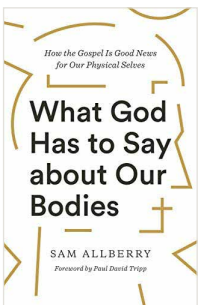


**Lead**  
(Paul Tripp)

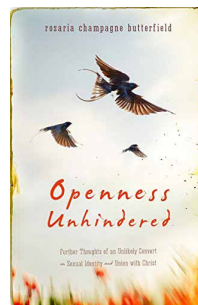


**The cross of Christ**  
(John Stott)

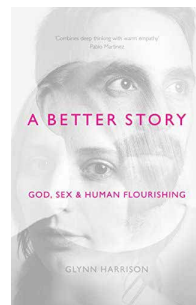
## Rob Smith



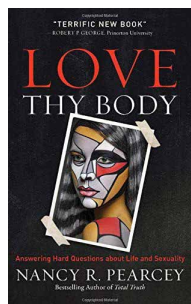
**What God Has to Say about Our Bodies: How the Gospel Is Good News for Our Physical Selves** (Sam Allberry)



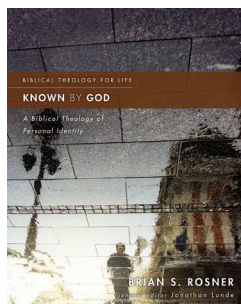
**Openness Unhindered: Further Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert on Sexual Identity and Union with Christ** (Rosaria Butterfield)



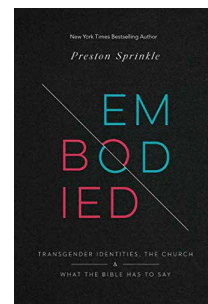
**A Better Story: God, Sex and Human Flourishing** (Glynn Harrison)



**Love Thy Body: Answering Hard Questions about Life and Sexuality** (Nancy R. Pearcey)

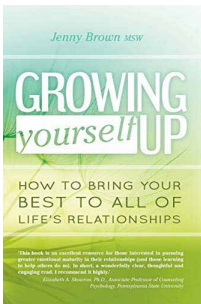


**Known by God: A Biblical Theology of Personal Identity** (Brian Rosner)



**Embodied: Transgender Identities, the Church & What the Bible Has to Say** (Preston Sprinkle)

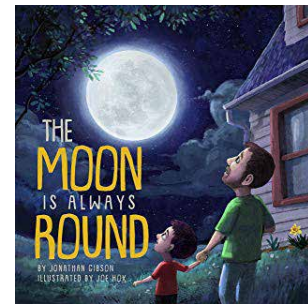
## Jenny Brown



**Growing Yourself Up:**  
How to bring the best to  
all of life's relationships  
(Jenny Brown)



**Confident Parenting**  
(Jenny Brown)



**The moon is always  
round** (Jonathan Gibson)

## Books are available from The Wandering Bookseller

**Website** [wanderingbookseller.com.au](http://wanderingbookseller.com.au)

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