

## Innovation Grants

### Frequently Asked Questions

- **Can churches or other ministries apply?**

In our current round of grantmaking, we are seeking to work directly with faculty from Christian colleges and universities. We hope that these university faculty will work in collaboration with their stakeholders, including churches in their network or community. If you are a church leader with a Scripture engagement idea, we encourage you to work in collaboration with a Christian college or university in your own network or neighborhood.

- **What does it mean to *increase* Scripture Engagement?**

American Bible Society defines Scripture Engagement as *consistent interaction with the Bible that shapes people's choices and transforms their relationships*. We [measure Scripture Engagement](#) by asking people 14 questions about frequency, impact, and centrality. Then we compile a score and place them into categories of "Bible Disengaged," "Movable Middle," and "Scripture Engaged." We want to see people moving into deeper engagement with the Bible by taking steps on the [Pathway of Scripture Engagement](#). We are interested in funding innovative and scalable projects that have long-term effects on Next Gen Bible engagement.

- **How can I learn more about Scripture Engagement?**

Please visit <https://www.stateofthebible.org> and download our reports to learn more about Scripture Engagement, its impacts, and its measurement.

- **I'm not familiar with how to use the ABS Scripture Engagement Scale. Can ABS assist with outcomes measurement?**

Yes. The Ministry Insights team is available to consult with your research team during the research design phase and during the execution of your innovation research. We have technology and methods that can make the measurement of Scripture Engagement and Human Flourishing much easier and more consistent.

- **What is the grant making process?**

Proposals will be reviewed by a committee of internal and external researchers in light of the stated criteria. Finalists will be invited to an online interview to share their proposals with the American Bible Society research team. The grant winners will be notified and asked to sign a Faculty Grant Agreement, after which funds will be dispersed and projects will commence.

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- **Is funding available for multi-year studies?**

No. We limit our innovation grants to interventions that can be implemented and tested within one year. The results of that testing will help us determine if your innovation is ready for scaling to a broader audience. Please limit your grant proposal to a defined intervention that fits our timeframe.

- **What does the typical project timeline look like?**

- **Summer:** Plan and prepare project elements
- **Beginning of Fall Semester:** Pre-assessment of audience (and possible control group) and begin Scripture engagement intervention
- **End of Fall Semester:** Post-assessment of audience (and possible control group)
- **Beginning of Spring Semester:** Follow-up survey to measure long-term outcomes
- **Spring semester:** Data analysis, report writing, and journal submission
- **Beginning of Summer:** Present results at ABS Innovation Round Table event

- **How do intellectual property rights work?**

Intellectual property resulting from the funded programs will be owned by the research team. American Bible Society will receive shared non-exclusive perpetual rights to use the results in creating its own materials without limitation.