Bible Study Component Changelog 6.00.11a to 6.1.0

Backend Improvements

Most functions have been moved into models and helper files. This results in much smaller files and a significant performance boost. Many errors have also been resolved.

Styling

An entirely new look and feel accompanies this release. Much appreciation goes out to our users who contributed many hours to help craft an html/css base that allows tables to line up properly. You now have significant control over the styling through a css file you can edit within the component, or create you own style sheet which you can put anywhere you want and reference through a parameter setting.

Parameters

In prior versions, parameters could be set in two places, the Global settings, and then at each menu. The parameters were difficult to maneuver (the list was long) and probably resulted in more questions than any other part of the component.

This has been solved through templating. One of our developers came up with this idea, a step towards a highly configurable future release. Now you have a default template that is automatically set up on the admin side. You set all component parameters in this one place.

You can actually create as many templates as you like, each with different settings. You then set the template for each view within that master template. On the menu side, you simply choose which template to use for that menu choice.

Yes, this will require you to re-enter all of your settings. But it is well worth it, and will be the future path for this component so making the changes now will keep you in sync for future versions.

Note: you now choose items for the studieslist based on their position 1-16, a four column four row table. You can span columns but not rows (in this release). You can also create custom fields based on your text/html and custom "tags" like {teacher}.

Sorting of Media Files

Media files now sorted by order and mimetype

Teachers List Enhancement on Studielist View

You can now add a list of teacher ids in the studieslist parameters, and those teacher's pictures and a link to their page will show up at the top of the studieslist view. The thumbnail picture and their name is used.

Choosing Multiple Items For Filtering

In the menu item parameters you can not add id numbers for multiple items to further filter the listing. You can use the drop down to pick one teacher, for instance, and/or you can add more teacher id numbers to have the listing show multiple teachers.

This works for teachers, books, locations, message type, topics, and series. Please note: the constraint is persistent unless a user chooses an item from the drop down menu of the item constrained. In other words, if I constrain by Genesis and Exodus, the user can remove that filter by choosing a different book from the listing drop down.

However, if you have chosen teachers Paul and John, only topics, locations, books, series, etc that Paul or John have taught will show. If the user picks another teacher from the drop down, then the constraint of teachers goes away. To stop users from picking items from the drop down that will remove the constraint, choose to not show that drop down in the listing view from the parameters menu.

Pagination

You can now set the number of items to show up on a listing page via the parameters. This overrides your site global setting.

Bug Fix - Problems with pagination

In past versions, if you were on a secondary or greater page of results of the studieslist and chose a drop down with fewer results than the page you were on (like results 40-60) a blank page came up.

This is been fixed in two ways.
1) Admin now can set the total number of items to show per page in paramters.
2) A test is made in the model, if the results are fewer than the limitstart (the 20-40, etc) then limitstart is set to 0.

Added Admin View

Some parameters are now set in an Admin view from the backend.
These include:
Dropping of tables on uninstall
Allowing administrators to delete rows on certain views
Use of compatibility Mode
Show or Hide Store on Studiesedit page

Pagination for Teachers List
Added pagination for the teachers list

Pre-filled forms
By using the Administration tab in the backend of com_biblestudy, you can now pre-fill the study and media file forms. There are various fields that can be pre-filled, including speaker, location, topic, series, media image and mimetype. The pre-filled items can be overridden while entering study/mediafile information for a specific study.

Image Handling
Images must now reside on the server where your Joomla installation exists. This way we can do automatic sizing. You can now set default images, image folders (which you create via ftp or other) and then specific images for series, studies, mediafiles, etc from drop down boxes, rather than having to type in a url. The old fields are retained, however for backwards compatibility.

Series Views
A brand new set of views has been added to Bible Study: Series. You have some more fields for series information and can link to all series or your choice. The details view also shows the studies connected to that series. All parameters are found in the template you are using (found under admin/com_biblestudy/Templates tab.

ToolTip Improvements
The styling for the ToolTip has been moved to the biblestudy.css file, which is editable from the backend. You can now choose which items to show in the ToolTip from the template area of Bible Study. There is a drop down called ToolTip Items where you set the labels and items to show.

Control of Drop Down Display on Studieslist Page
You can now determine whether the drop down filter menus appear on the studieslist page. In the paste, if you chose to filter by Bible Book, let's say, then the Book drop down did not appear on the list page. Now in the template area you can choose whether or not to display the drop downs even if there is a filter set. You will find this setting in the Filter area of the template.

Limit the number of studies on the mediafiles page
You can now set an admin parameter to limit the number of studies that appear on the drop down in the media file record. This way if you have a large number of studies you can have, say, the last 100 shown. This is not in effect on existing media file records.

This parameter is set using the Admin tab on the back end of Bible Study.

Use internal MP3 player for a single media file
You can now choose to play an individual media file (mp3 only) using the default internal media player. This is set in the media file record and overrides the global setting to use the mp3 player.

You set this parameter in the mediafile entry screen in the front end or admin side.