Biblical Communication

Course Facilitator: Jeff Lark, ThM.
Institute of Biblical Studies
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Minneapolis, MN

Course Description

Communicating biblical truth requires a profound understanding of God's Word and an ability to relate God's Word to your audience so they may experience transformation. Building upon the *Biblical Interpretation* class, experienced communicators will help you become a worshipping communicator and develop audience-sensitive skills that insure your message finds relevant, true-to-life application. Through lecture and workshops this course will equip you lead the emerging generations to conviction and repentance of their sin and to growing belief and adoration of Christ.

Prerequisite: *Biblical Interpretation*

Course Values

➢ Developing biblical communicators who are captivated by Christ.

➢ Developing biblical messages that are:

Faithful to the whole story of the Bible

Obvious from the passage

Related to the fallen condition in the heart of the hearer

Connected to Christ's redemption

Engaging the heart and mind in culturally relevant ways

Course Objectives

Cognitive (knowledge and thinking skills)

1. Grow in your understanding of the good news of the gospel so you are better able to communicate it to culturally diverse audiences as you launch and build movements of Christ-followers.

2. Learn a simple process for structuring a Christ-centered message (small group, devotional or large group) from a narrative passage of Scripture.

3. Help others hear the music of the gospel by learning to identify the "fallen condition" and "redemptive solution" in a passage and relate it to the cultural context of your audience.

Affective (attitudes, motivation, character)

1. Deepen your confidence in the gospel and motivation to share it as you see how it addresses the deepest longings of your heart.

2. Embrace the five values of Christ-centered communication in your biblical teaching (one on one, small group, large group).

   a. Faithful to the whole story of the Bible
   b. Obvious from the passage
   c. Related to the fallen condition in the heart of the hearer
   d. Connected to Christ's redemption
   e. Engaging the heart and mind in culturally relevant way

3. Develop deeper appreciation for the importance of community (learning together, sharing, being vulnerable, receiving feedback, etc.) as a key means of growth.

Behavioral (personal and ministry skills)

1. Grow in your capacity to teach biblical narratives.

2. Grow in your capacity to communicate Christ from the Scriptures by developing a Christ-centered small group lesson, an evangelistic presentation and a large group message which you will deliver and on which you will receive constructive feedback.

3. Improve your delivery skills by practicing and receiving feedback from a coach and peers.

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Required Texts

(There are Kindle versions of these books available. The IBSN is for the print versions)

Chapell, Bryan. *Unlimited Grace: The Heart Chemistry That Frees From Sin and Fuels the Christian Life.* Wheaton, Illinois, 2016 ISBN: 978-1-4335-5231-1 [You will read parts 2 and 3 for Biblical Communication as Chapell spends the second half of the book dealing with how we communicate the grace of the gospel to others].

Timothy J. Keller. *Center Church: Doing Balanced, Gospel-Centered Ministry in Your City.* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012. ISBN-13: 978-0310494188. This is an excellent book on gospel-centered ministry. We'll be reading four chapters on the topic of contextualization.

Georges, Jayson and Mark D. Baker. Ministering in Honor-Shame Cultures. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2016. ISBN-978-0-8308-5146-1 [We will only be reading three chapters from this book. But the entire book is extremely helpful to learn how to minister to those who come from an honor/shame context.]

Llyod-Jones, Sally. *The Jesus Storybook Bible: Every Story Whispers His Name.* Grand Rapids: ZonderKids, 2007. ISBN-13: 978-0310708254. Although it is written for children, this book does an incredible job modeling Christ-centered communication. Sally Lloyd Jones masterfully connects each story to the larger story of Scripture. We will discuss several of these stories in our coaching time. You don't need to read them ahead of time. We will read them together in class.

Recommended Texts

Goldsworthy, Graeme. *Preaching the Whole Bible as Christian Scripture.* Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2000.

Keller, Timothy J. *Preaching: Communicating Faith in an Age of Skepticism.* New York: Viking, 2015.

Millar, Gary and Phil Campbell. *Saving Eutychus: How to Preach God's Word and Keep People Awake.* Matthias Media, 2013.

Wax, Trevin. *Gospel-Centered Teaching: Showing Christ in All the Scripture.* Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 2013.

NOTE: *Normally we offer Biblical Communication in a two-week format. In order to make a one-week format work, there is substantial preparation you need to do prior to the beginning of the first class.*

Preparing for Biblical Communication

Try to complete all the readings in Chapell and Keller prior to the beginning of class. You don't need to read anything ahead of time in the Jones book.

Readings from Chapell's *Unlimited Grace*
- Part 2 and Part 3 (Chapters 11-21)

Readings from Keller's *Center Church*
- Chapters 7-10

Readings from Georges and Baker's book, Ministering in Honor-Shame Cultures
- Chapter 8

Course Requirements

1. **Reading:** You are expected to read thoughtfully the assigned texts. You will turn in a reading report indicating your completion of the readings. (10 points)

2. **Worksheets:** You will complete five worksheets. You will submit your worksheets electronically to your coach. (50 points)

3. **Large Group Communication Project:** You will compose a complete message on a biblical passage. The message will be designed for a large group teaching environment. You will turn in a written component of this message. (20 points)

4. **Delivery of message:** You will have an opportunity to deliver your message in order to receive feedback on your communication. (20 points)