

Biblical Interpretation

Course Facilitator: Jeff Lark, ThM.
Institute of Biblical Studies
February 25-March 9, 2018
Minneapolis, MN

Course Description

Poetry. Letters. Stories. Laws. Prophecy. Faithfully interpreting God's Word requires understanding the various literary forms through which God speaks to us, applying sound hermeneutical principles, and connecting every passage to God's redemptive message throughout the Scriptures that centers on Jesus Christ. Building on the foundation of Bible Study Methods, this course will introduce you to an interpretive process that will enable you to understand God's Word and encounter the living God more profoundly. You will have the opportunity to learn this process working in small groups with the aid of a mentor who will guide you to handle the treasure of God's Word faithfully and meaningfully.

Prerequisite: *Bible Study Methods*

Course Objectives: Through this class, you can expect to . . .

1. Develop greater confidence in your ability to understand and apply God's Word.
2. Be introduced to a process and tools that can help you better understand Scripture and apply it to your life.
3. Better understand the redemptive story-line of the Bible that culminates in Christ.
4. Discover why it is important to relate every passage to the redemptive story-line.
5. Develop greater sensitivity to how culture shapes the way we read and apply the Bible.
6. Better understand five literary forms through which God speaks to us in Scripture: OT narrative, gospel, parables, poetry, and Acts.
7. Begin to discern the "fallen condition" and "redemptive solution" in a passage of Scripture.
8. Experience the gospel as you discover how Scripture exposes your brokenness/rebellion (fallen condition) and points your heart to find true life in Christ (redemptive solution).
9. Be better equipped for future ministry by enabling you to apply sound interpretive principles to your future reading, study, application and teaching of Scripture.
10. Be prepared for the Biblical Communication course.

Required Texts

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

Fee, Gordon D. and Douglas Stuart. *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth: A Guide to Understanding the Bible*, 4th ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2014. ISBN-13: 978-0310517825 [To rightly read Scripture, we must pay careful attention to the genre (literary form) through which a biblical writer communicates. This book provides a helpful introduction to the different genres through which God reveals himself in Scripture. It complements presentations you will hear in the lectures. While we will not discuss it extensively in class, it is foundational. If you are reading ahead, start by reading this book. NOTE: *Make sure you buy the fourth edition.*]

Roberts, Vaughan. *God's Big Picture: Tracing the story-line of the Bible*. Leicester, England: InterVarsity Press, 2002. ISBN-13: 978-0830853649 [Another key to rightly reading Scripture is seeing how a passage fits into the larger story of God. In 150 pages Roberts provides a helpful overview of the story-line of the Bible organized around the theme of the kingdom of God. We will discuss this book in class.]

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 [The book is broken up into three sections. You will read part 1 for Biblical Interpretation which covers the foundation of the gospel and grace. This may feel like it is old news, but let it be good news as you seek to read it with fresh ears. You will then read part 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].

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.]

Tripp, Paul. *New Morning Mercies: A Daily Gospel Devotional*. Crossway, 2014.
ASIN: B0007UPEGO

ESV Study Bible. Wheaton: Crossway, 2008. ISBN-13: 978-1433502415. The ESV Study Bible is one of the most helpful single-volume resources for studying the Bible. It contains a wealth of notes and articles addressing everything from the meaning of individual verses to the big picture of God's story. [NOTE: When you buy the print version, you also get free online access to the ESVSB. If you don't want a print version of the ESVSB, you can simply buy one of the electronic versions.]

Recommended Texts

Bartholomew Craig G. and Michael W. Goheen. *The Drama Of Scripture: Finding Our Place In The Biblical Story*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2004.

Dorani, Daniel M. *Getting the Message: A Plan for Interpreting and Applying the Bible*. Phillipsburg, N.J.: Presbyterian and Reformed Pub., 1996.

_____. *Putting the Truth to Work: The Theory and Practice of Biblical Application*. Phillipsburg, N.J.: Presbyterian and Reformed Pub., 2001.

Goldsworthy, Graeme. *Gospel-Centered Hermeneutics: Biblical-Theological Foundations and Principles*. Downer's Grove: InterVarsity, 2006.

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

Kostenberger, Andreas and Richard Patterson. *Invitation to Biblical Interpretation: Exploring the Hermeneutical Triad of History, Literature, and Theology*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2011.

Richards, E. Randolph. *Misreading Scripture with Western Eyes: Removing Cultural Blinders to Better Understand the Bible*. Downers Grove: Intervarsity, 2012.

Osborne, Grant R. *The Hermeneutical Spiral: A Comprehensive Introduction to Biblical Interpretation*. Revised and Expanded. Downers Grove: IVP, 2006.

NOTE: *We normally offer Biblical Interpretation 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. You will watch three lectures, finish the majority of the reading, and complete one worksheet.*

Course Requirements:

1. **Reading:** You are expected to read carefully the assigned texts by the day that they are due. You will submit a reading report to your coach indicating your completion of the assigned readings.
2. **Participation:** You will be expected to come to the daily workshop discussions ready to discuss the course material. (Be sure to bring *God's Big Picture* to class each day along with other course materials.)
3. **Exegetical Worksheets:** You will complete four worksheets that will give you the opportunity to practice the specific skills on which we focus that day. All your work will be incorporated in your final exegetical paper. The worksheets will be made available in a google doc prior to class.
 - a. Worksheet #1: Passage Selection and Observation
 - b. Worksheet #2: Context Analysis
 - c. Worksheet #3: Textual Outline and ABI
 - d. Worksheet #4: Theological Analysis
 - e. Worksheet #5 - Application
4. **Exegetical Project:** The exegetical project will give you the opportunity to apply all the skills you have learned to a particular passage of Scripture.

Advance Preparation (Note: There is advance work for Biblical Communication as well. See the BC syllabus. You'll need to prepare for both courses at the same time.)

Due Monday, February 5

- Read Fee and Stuart c1, c11
- Watch Poetry lecture (On Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/album/3363830>, password is "BiblicalInter2015"), take notes and write 250-300 words describing what was most helpful from the lecture and submit it to your coach (Word document).
- Read Roberts, Introduction, c1 (you can ignore the Bible studies)

Due Monday, February 12

- Read Fee and Stuart c7, c8
- Watch Parables lecture on Vimeo, take notes and write 250-300 words describing was most helpful from the lecture and submit it to your coach (Word document).
- Read Roberts c2, c3

Due Monday, February 19

- Read Fee and Stuart c5, c6
- Watch Acts lecture on Vimeo, take notes and write 250-300 words describing was most helpful from the lecture and submit it to your coach (Word document).
- Read Roberts, c4, c5

Due Friday, February 23

- Complete Worksheet #1 and email to your coach

Due Monday, February 26

- Read Roberts c6, c7, c8
- Read Johnson, "Hearing the Music of the Gospel"
- Read Trip, Preface, Story, and Ch. 1

Reading Report

(To be submitted to your coach)

An electronic copy can be found on the IBS website

Name _____

Coach _____

Date Due	Assignment	Assigned Pages	# Pages Completed
Monday, February 5	Fee and Stuart c1, c11 [36] Roberts, Introduction, c1 [24]	60	
Monday February 12	Fee and Stuart c7, c8 [36] Roberts, Introduction, c2, c3 [22]	58	
Monday February 19	Fee and Stuart c5, c6 [38] Roberts, c4, c5 [48]	86	
Monday February 26	Roberts, c6, c7, c8 [46] Johnson, Hearing the Music of the Gospel [14] Chapell – Part 1 [60] Georges and Baker – Part 2 (chapters 4 and 5) [50] Tripp preface, story and ch. 1 [12]	182	
Tuesday February 27	Tripp, ch. 2 [11] Appendix 2 – Intro to Commentaries	4	
Wednesday February 28	Tripp, ch. 10 [2] Appendix 3 – Identifying the TBI	3	
Thursday March 1	Tripp, ch. 25 [2] Appendix 4 – Understanding the Fallen Condition Focus of Scripture Appendix 5 – Developing an Application Big Idea Appendix 6 – Drilling down on your Application	13	
Friday March 2	None	0	
	TOTAL	406	

