

Biblical Communication

Course Facilitator: Dr. Keith E. Johnson

Course Purpose

The Institute of Biblical Studies exists to help develop Christ-centered missionaries who possess the biblical and theological competencies they need (head, heart and hands) to live out the Great Commandment and help fulfill the Great Commission through the ministry of Cru. As an organization, we are passionate about connecting people to Christ. To fulfill our global missionary mandate, we need to be growing in our understanding and experience of the good news about Christ revealed in the Scriptures, increasing in our understanding of people (as created, fallen and redeemed), and growing in our capacity to communicate Christ to people in their brokenness from the Scriptures. It is also important that we are able to contextualize Scriptural teaching for ethnically and culturally diverse audiences. Biblical Communication exists to help you grow in your capacity to point diverse audiences to Christ from the Scriptures whether one-on-one, in a small group or large group setting.

Course Description

Communicating biblical truth requires a growing understanding of God's Word and an ability to relate the Word of God 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 to lead the emerging generation to conviction and repentance of their sins, to a growing belief and adoration of Christ and to a practical application of that in their everyday lives. Prerequisite: *Biblical Interpretation* (2 IBS credits - Bible)

Learning Outcomes

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.

Required Books

Bryan Chapell. *Christ-Centered Preaching*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Book House, 2005. ISBN-13: 978-0801027987. The most important part of this book is chapters 10 and 11 where Chapell explains the theology behind his approach to "Christ-centered preaching." One of the primary reasons we use this text is because Chapell presents a gospel-centered model of biblical communication.

Sally Lloyd-Jones. *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.

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.

Recommended Books

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.

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 *Christ-Centered Preaching*

- Chapell, ch. 2 (all), ch 10 (all), ch 11 (pp. 297-312 only, Kindle: beginning of ch11 to header titled "Understanding the Effects of Grace")
- Chapell, ch. 6 (pp. 142-55 only, Kindle: start reading with the section titled "Specific Outline Features and ending at the section titled "Subpoints")
- Chapell, ch. 8 (209-222 only, Kindle: beginning of ch 8 to the section titled "The Structure of Application")
- Chapell, ch. 9 (pp. 237-262 only, Kindle: beginning of ch 9 to the header titled "Types of Transitions")
- Chapell, ch. 7 (pp. 190-206 only, Kindle: start with the header titled "How to Illustrate" and read to the end of the chapter)

Readings from Keller's *Center Church*

- Keller, Ch 2, pp. 39-44
- Keller, Chapters 7, 9 and 10

Learning Tasks

1. **Reading:** The primary text for this class is Bryan Chapell's *Christ-Centered Preaching*. There are two reasons we use this text. First, Chapell presents a gospel-centered model of communication. Second, he describes in detail how to construct a biblical message. You will also be reading four chapters on contextualization from *Center Church* by Tim Keller. We need to grow in our ability to contextualize the gospel and these chapters are very helpful in describing what that process can look like. Our final text is *The Jesus Storybook Bible*. In this book, Sally Lloyd-Jones does a masterful job modelling Christ-centered communication to children. We will discuss several of her stories in class. At the end of the course, you will submit a reading report indicating how much of the reading you completed.
2. **Participate in Coaching Group:** Biblical Communication is not something you learn merely by hearing lectures and reading books. You learn by practicing and receiving feedback. Much of the learning in this class will take place in small group context. You will be assigned to a coaching group with eight to ten of your peers.
3. **Worksheets:** You will develop a small group lesson and large-group message on the passage you studied in Biblical Interpretation. Six worksheets (posted on the IBS website) will walk you through the process of developing these messages. You will submit your worksheets electronically to your coach and receive constructive feedback.
 - a. Worksheet #1: Audience Analysis
 - b. Worksheet #2: Small Group Lesson
 - c. Worksheet #3: Message Objectives and Explore Section
 - d. Worksheet #4: Message Objectives and Apply Section
 - e. Worksheet #5: Launching and Closing
 - f. Worksheet #6: Large Group Message

4. **Evangelistic Conversation:** You will have an evangelistic conversation from your passage with a non-Christian. As an evangelistic organization that seeks to give every man, woman and child the opportunity to say "yes" to Jesus, we want to help our staff take the principles from this class and have the chance to apply them in an evangelistic conversation. Using your passage, you are being asked to engage with someone with the hopes to:
- share the basic storyline of your passage in a compelling and understandable way.
 - ask a few diagnostic questions to engage them in the story and its implications.
 - seek to use your story to then share the gospel.
- Afterward, you will write up a 250-300 word summary of how it went (i.e. Who did you approach; how did you retell the story in a compelling and understandable way; what diagnostic questions did you ask and how did they respond; were you able to share more of the gospel with them and how did they respond). Also, please describe your personal experience using this method of evangelism.
5. **Deliver your Large Group Message:** You will develop a 20 minute large-group message on the passage you studied throughout the BI class. You will deliver this message to your coaching group and receive feedback from your coach and peers.
- a. You will only have 20 minutes to give your talk. We would like you to deliver your *entire talk* during that time. Because there are so many of us, talk times need to move crisply.
 - b. Two people, plus the coach, will evaluate your message.
 - c. Delivery (12 points)
 - i. Gestures (3 pts)
 - ii. Eyes (3 pts)
 - iii. Movement and Posture (3 pts)
 - iv. Speaking Voice (3 pts)
 - d. Communicated Message (22 points)
 - i. Launch (3 pts)
 - ii. Explore (8 pts)
 - iii. Apply (8 pts)
 - iv. Close (3 pts)

Course Grade

Reading	10 points
Worksheets (#1 to #5)	50 points
Evangelism Report	6 points
Large Group Message (Wksht #6)	<u>34 points</u>
Total	100 points

IBS Grading Scale:

94-100	A	80-81	C+
92-93	A-	74-79	C
90-91	B+	72-73	C-
84-89	B	65-71	D
82-83	B-	0-65	F

Note: A grade of C- or better is required for this course to fulfill your IBS requirements.

Course Assignments

Note: There is work that must be completed prior to the first session

Topic/Date	Reading Due	Worksheets and Project
Intro to Biblical Communication Friday, June 30	*Chapell, ch. 2 (all), ch 10 (all), ch 11 (pp. 297-312 only, Kindle: beginning of ch11 to header titled “Understanding the Effects of Grace”) *Listen to audio lecture titled “Preaching to Believers and Unbelievers” (posted online)	Worksheet #1: Audience Analysis (due: Monday, July 3)
Contextualization Monday, July 3	*Jabbour, <i>Crescent through the Eyes of the Cross</i> , ch 11 (posted online) *Tim Keller, <i>Center Church</i> ch 2, pp. 39-44 *Appendix 1, 2, 3 and 4	
Fourth of July Tuesday, July 4	No Class	
Preparing a Small-Group Lesson Wednesday, July 5	*Keller, <i>Center Church</i> chapters 7, 9 and 10	Worksheet #2: Compose a Small Group Lesson (due: Thursday, July 6)
Preparing a Large-Group Message Thursday, July 6	*Appendix 6, “Asking Christ-Centered Questions that Target the Heart”	Worksheet #3: Message Objectives and Explore (due: Friday, July 7)
Narrative Evangelism Friday, July 7	*Chapell, ch. 6 (pp. 142-55 only, Kindle: start reading with the section titled “Specific Outline Features and ending at the section titled “Subpoints”) *Appendix 7, “Developing a Message Big Idea (MBI)”	Worksheet #4: Message Objectives and Apply (due: Monday, July 10) Evangelism Report (due: Monday, July 10) <i>For Monday, prepare a 90 second illustration (not from your intro)</i>
Launching and Closing Monday, July 10	*Chapell, ch. 8 (209-222 only, Kindle: beginning of c8 to the section titled “The Structure of Application”) *Chapell, ch. 9 (pp. 237-262 only, Kindle: beginning of ch 9 to the header titled “Types of Transitions”) Appendices 8, 9 and 10	Worksheet #5: Launching/Closing and Illustrating (due: Tuesday, July 11) <i>For Tuesday, prepare the introduction to your talk.</i>
Gospel-Centered Communication Tuesday, July 11	*Read Chapell, ch. 7 (pp. 190-206, Kindle: start with the header titled “How to Illustrate” and read the rest of the chapter) *Appendix 11, 12 and 13	
Gospel-Centered Living Wednesday, July 12		Finish your message Complete Worksheet #6 (due 7/13)
Delivering Messages July 13-14	Deliver your message	Worksheet #6 due 9:00am on July 13

Reading Report

(To be submitted electronically to your coach)

NOTE: Kindle locations for Keller and Chapell can be found on the previous page.

Date Due	Assignment	Assigned Pages	# Pages Completed
Friday, June 30	Chapell, ch. 2 (all), ch 10 (all), ch 11 (pp. 297-312 only) Listen to Keller lecture "Preaching to Believers and Unbelievers" (count as 25pp)	85	
Monday, July 3	Appendix 1, "Developing Biblical Messages" Appendix 2, "Delivery Skills" Appendix 3, "Understanding the Fallen-Condition Focus of Scripture" Appendix 4, "Heart Longings" Jabbour, <i>Crescent through the Eyes of the Cross</i> , 161-172 Tim Keller, <i>Center Church</i> c2, pp. 39-44	25	
Wednesday, July 5	Tim Keller, <i>Center Church</i> Ch 7 (all), pp. 89-97 Ch 9 (all), pp. 108-116 Ch 10 (all), pp. 119-32	32	
Thursday, July 6	Appendix 6, "Asking Christ-Centered Questions that Target the Heart"	2	
Friday, July 7	Appendix 7, "Developing a Message Big Idea (MBI)" Chapell, Ch. 6 (pp. 142-55 only)	15	
Monday, July 10	Appendix 8, "Going from the MBI to Apply" Appendix 9, "Getting to the Heart of the Fallen Condition" Appendix 10, "Getting to the Heart of the MBI" Chapell, Ch. 8 (pp. 209-222 only) Chapell, Ch. 9 (pp. 237-260)	48	
Tuesday, July 11	Chapell, Ch. 7 (pp. 190-206 only) Appendix 11, "The A-Z of telling stories" Appendix 12, "How to Paint a Fallen Condition" Appendix 13, "Thinking of sin/redemption as a tree"	25	
Wednesday, July 12	None	0	
	Total	232	

Worksheet #1 *Audience Analysis*

Name

Passage

Audience

Step 1: Identify possible fallen conditions in your passage

Be sure to read Appendix 3, “Understanding the Fallen-Condition Focus of Scripture” before you complete this worksheet. Please note that when you write your statement of the fallen condition, it does not need to be a five-line paragraph like some of these examples. It can be a single sentence.

Step 2: Tell us about your audience

In a short paragraph, identify the age group, cultural/ethnic background, spiritual background and maturity, communication setting, etc. of your audience. What do you need to remember about them as you prepare?

Step 3: Consider the beliefs of your audience:

What false beliefs does your passage surface or address?

Step 4: Identify FC for your audience

Determine the single Fallen Condition that best describes your audience. (*Think about situations in the lives of those in your ministry audience that reflect this fallen condition. What does it look like? How does it express itself in their cultural context? Try to make your Fallen Condition as specific as possible. The more specific your fallen condition, the more helpful it will be. The less specific your fallen condition, the less helpful it will be.*)

Step 5: Heart Longings

Consider the heart-longings of your audience: What heart-longings does this redemptive solution address? How do these longings manifest themselves in the lives of those to whom you minister? (*The article titled “Heart Longings,” will help you identify possible heart-longings. These longings represent an important bridge to your audience.*)

Step 6: Identify RS for your audience

Determine the Redemptive Solution (Christ solution, grace provision) that answers this fallen condition. You may find it helpful to brainstorm some options before you pick one. (*How does the work and power of the gospel address this fallen condition? What aspect of the gospel do you need to embrace? Is it freedom from the penalty of sin? Is it freedom from the power of sin or shame? What would it look like for you to embrace this aspect of the gospel? Try to make this as specific as possible.*)

Worksheet #2

Small Group Lesson

Instructions

Following the process outlined in the class notes, create a small group lesson on your passage for your ministry audience (e.g., if you will be working with the Campus Ministry, this Bible study should be designed for college students).

- Step 1: Determine learning objectives
- Step 2: Brainstorm explore questions
- Step 3: Brainstorm theological message questions
- Step 4: Brainstorm apply questions
- Step 5: Brainstorm launch questions

Formatting your Lesson

- Your small group lesson should be typed
- Your small group lesson should have your name, passage reference, and intended audience at the top of the page.
- Your small group lesson should look just like the sample studies that can be found in the notes.
- Your small group lesson should contain the following clearly marked sections:
 - Lesson Objectives
 - What's the Big Idea?
 - What's the Problem?
 - What's the Solution?
 - What's our Response?
 - Launch
 - Explore
 - Survey the Big Picture (keep this brief)
 - Explore the Passage
 - Summarize the Theological Message
 - Apply
- Your small group lesson should expose your audience's fallen condition and point them toward Christ. (Be sure to read the article in the student notes, "Asking Christ-centered Questions that Target the Heart")

Email your small group lesson to you coach when you are finished.

NOTE: This may initially feel like a daunting assignment when you start. Remember that you have already spent two weeks studying this passage. You're simply generating some questions to help participants in a small group Bible study discover what you've learned. Once you get started, you may be surprised how easy it is to generate questions in light of your study.

Worksheet #3

Message Objectives and Explore Section

Name

Passage

Audience

1. Restate your TBI

2. Determine Message Objectives

1. **Fallen Condition:** What is the Fallen Condition you want your audience to identify with? (Try to focus on the primary fallen condition in your passage.)
2. **Redemptive Solution:** What “Redemptive Solution” do you plan to present to your audience that answers the Fallen Condition?
 - **Brainstorm Message Big Idea (MBI):** (*Be sure to review pp. 142-149 of Chapell. Try stating your MBI using the form “Because . . . , we . . .”*)
 - a. MBI #1
 - b. MBI #2
 - c. MBI #3

3. Outline “Explore” Section

- Developed a detailed outline of the “Explore” section of your message. In this section, you are retelling the story of the passage in a clear, compelling way that permits the hearers to experience the drama of the plot and understand the author’s intended meaning. Also, be sure to fold important contextual matters or background information necessary for a hearer to understand the narrative into the retelling of the story.
- Be sure to include at least one illustration (which you briefly summarize)

Worksheet #4 *Messages Objectives and Apply Section*

Name

Passage

Audience

Be sure to read Appendices 8, 9 and 10 before you complete this worksheet

Finalize Message Objectives

1. Finalize Fallen Condition
2. Finalize Redemptive Solution
3. Finalize MBI (On worksheet #3 you brainstormed several MBIs. You will need to pick one.)

Outline Apply Section

Develop a detailed outline for the “apply” section of your message (see lecture 4)

- Help your hearers understand the theological message of the passage in light of the whole story of the Bible.
- Apply the theological message of the passage to your audience showing how the fallen condition is answered by the redemptive solution. Structure your application around 2-3 main points that unpack your MBI
- Be sure to include any essential details from stories or illustrations you plan to use.
- Use first-person (we) or second-person (you) language
- The apply section should reflect the values of FORCE

Develop Illustration

Compose an illustration to be used in the apply section of the talk. Write it out word for word.

- Transition Statement (introduces the illustration)
- Illustration (written out word-for-word)
- Explanation of the purpose of Illustration (summarize the purpose of this illustration in a sentence or two)

Evangelism Report

Name

Passage

Audience

Instructions

You will have an evangelistic conversation from your passage with a non-Christian. As an evangelistic organization that seeks to give every man, woman and child the opportunity to say "yes" to Jesus, we want to help our staff take the principles from this class and have the chance to apply them in an evangelistic conversation. Using your passage, you are being asked to engage with someone with the hopes to:

- share the basic storyline of your passage in a compelling and understandable way.
- ask a few diagnostic questions to engage them in the story and its implications.
- seek to use your story to then share the gospel.

Who did you talk with? (religious background, spiritual interest)

How did you tell the story in a compelling way?

What questions did you ask and how did they respond?

How would you describe your personal experience using this method of evangelism?

Worksheet #5 *Launching and Closing*

Name

Passage

Audience

Before you complete this worksheet, be sure to read Appendices 11, 12 and 13.

Launch

Compose an introduction to your message. Please type it out word for word as if you were saying it to your audience. Your introduction should include five clearly labeled elements: (1) arouse attention (2) surface a fallen condition (*including a clear one-sentence statement of the fallen-condition*), (3) connect your audience to the fallen condition and (4) frame the MBI, (5) introduce the passage / transition to the passage

Close

Compose a conclusion to your message. Please type it out word for word as if you were saying it to your audience. Your conclusion should include the following:

- A statement of your MBI (in **bold** print)
- A summary of how the MBI answers the fallen condition.
- An illustration that appropriately ties the fallen condition and MBI together.

Large Group Message

Under the guidance of your coach, you will develop a 20 minute large-group message on the passage you studied in Biblical Interpretation. Worksheets 1, 3, 4 and 5 will walk you through the process of developing your message. (You can find the seven-step process for developing a talk in Appendix 1 at the end of these notes.) You will deliver your message to your coaching group and receive feedback both on your delivery and content—both from your coach and peers. Your coach alone will assign a grade.

Your message should be no more than 20 minutes in length, reflect the values of FORCE and contain the following four sections:

1. Launch the Message (Connect the message to where they live) [3 min]— Your launch should include . . .

- An attention-getting opening that orients your audience to the fallen condition and helps them personally identify it in their own lives.
- A statement of the fallen condition
- Connecting the fallen condition to your audience
- A question that the MBI answers
- Introduce the passage
- A transitional statement(s) that moves the message from the Launch to the Explore section.

2. Explore the Passage (Lead them to understand the Word) [6-8min] — Retell the story of the passage in a clear, compelling way that permits the hearers to experience the drama of the plot and understand the author's intended meaning. Also, be sure to fold important contextual matters and background information necessary for a hearer to understand the narrative into the retelling of the story.

3. Apply the Passage (Lead them to a heart-level response to Christ) [6-8min] — First, you need to explain the theological significance of your story in the larger drama of Scripture. You may want to touch on redemptive themes or how the passage points to Christ. Show how the Fallen Condition surfaced earlier is addressed by the redemptive solution(s) of this passage. Be sure your application points flow from or leads to your MBI. Be sure to include any essential details from stories or illustrations you plan to use.

4. Close (Bring the message to satisfactory conclusion) [2-3 min] — Your close should include . . .

- A statement of your MBI
- A summary of how the MBI answers the fallen condition.
- An illustration that appropriately ties the fallen condition and MBI together.

Worksheet #6 *Large Group Message*

Name

Passage

Audience

Please email this worksheet to your coach *prior to class on the first day of the talks* (even if you are not scheduled to speak till the second day).

Name

1. List your passage
2. State your ABI
3. State your TBI
4. State your MBI
5. Describe your Audience:
 - Audience: In a short paragraph identify the age group, cultural/ethnic background, spiritual background and maturity, communication setting, etc., of your audience.
 -
 - False beliefs: What false beliefs does your audience have that are manifested in this passage?
 -
 - Fallen Condition: What is the fallen condition your audience shares with the passage?
 -
 - Heart Longings: What longings of the heart does the passage answer?
 -
 - Redemptive Solution: What is the redemptive solution in the passage that answer the fallen condition you identified above?

Feedback from your Coach

Delivery (12 points)

Gestures (3 pts)	
Eyes (3 pts)	
Movement and Posture (3 pts)	
Speaking Voice (3 pts)	

Communicated Message (22 points)

Launch (3 pts)	
Explore (8 pts)	
Apply (8 pts)	
Close (3 pts)	