

Biblical Communication

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Institute of Biblical Studies

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Austin, TX

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 to 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 and Psalms.
2. Grow in your capacity to communicate Christ from the Scriptures by developing a Christ-centered small group lesson, an evangelistic presentation a written discipleship resource, 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 Texts

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

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. *The 3D Gospel: Ministry in Guilt, Shame and Fear Cultures*. Time Press, 2017. This book provides a great introduction to three worldviews and how to share the gospel within that worldview.

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.]

Lloyd-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 Keller and the Chapell audio lectures prior to the beginning of class. You don't need to read anything ahead of time in the Jones book (Jesus Storybook Bible).

Chapell's lectures. You will listen (or read the manuscripts) of 4 of Brian Chapell's lectures on the Gospel Coalition Website. <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/christ-centered-preaching/#course-introduction>

You will listen to (or read) the following lectures:

- "What's the Big Idea"
- "A Redemptive approach to preaching"
- "Developing redemptive messages"
- "Preaching Christ-centered application".

I have made the downloaded manuscripts of these lectures available in the student drive (Google) for this class.

Readings from Keller's *Center Church*

- Chapters 7-10

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

- Chapter 8

Read all of Georges' book, *3D Gospel*.

Chapter from Jabbour, *Crescent Through the Eyes of the Cross* – included in the student drive for this class.

Listen to Keller lecture – **Preaching to Believers and Unbelievers** – included in the student drive for this class.

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 four worksheets. You will submit your worksheets electronically to your coach. (30 points)
3. **Communication Projects and delivery of message:** You will have the opportunity to communicate your passage in three contexts. Small Group bible study; either an Article or Evangelistic presentation of your passage to a non-believer; and finally, you will compose and deliver a large group message on your biblical passage. (60 points)

Learning Tasks

1. **Reading:** (1) You will 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. (2) You will also be reading the *3D Gospel* which will help provide insight into three of the main cultural paradigms within the world. (3). You will continue with *Ministering in Honor Shame Cultures* by reading the chapter on Evangelism. (4) You will either listen to or read the transcript from lectures by Bryan Chapell. These lectures help set the tone for how we desire all of our Biblical Communication to be Christ-centered and redemptive focused. (5) And our final text is *The Jesus Storybook Bible*. In this book, Sally Lloyd-Jones does a masterful job modeling 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 a small group context. You will be assigned to a coaching group with eight to ten of your peers.
3. **Worksheets/communication projects:** As part of this course, you will be engaging in three distinct forms of Biblical communication. The worksheets will guide you through each of these communication experiences.
 - a. Worksheet #1: Audience Analysis/contextualization (10 points)
 - b. Worksheet #2: FC/RS/MBI (5 points)
 - c. Communication project #1: Small group study
 - d. Worksheet #3: Outline of large group message (10 points)
 - e. Communication project #2: Evangelism project
 - f. Communication project #2: Written communication article
 - g. Worksheet #4: Large Group Communication (5 points)
 - h. Communication project #3 – large group message
4. **Communication Projects:**
 - a. **Small Group Study:** You will write a small group study for your passage, using limiting and open-ended questions that will follow our small group template of Launch, Explore, Connect, and Apply. Even though Cru has many great small group resources available to us, this process will help you see the value of good questions that explore the passage, expose the Fallen Condition and point your small group to Christ.

(choose between b or c)

- b. Evangelistic Conversation:** You will have an opportunity to engage in 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.

c. Written Communication article: You will have an opportunity to write a spiritual growth/discipleship article or an evangelistic article of 800-1000 words that could be used on Cru.org or everystudent.com using your passage as the main text for your article. You could make it topical and make it for a specific or a general audience.

d. Delivery of 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.

- 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.
- Two people, plus the coach, will evaluate your message.
- Delivery (8 points)
 - i. Gestures (2 pts)
 - ii. Eyes (2 pts)
 - iii. Movement and Posture (2 pts)
 - iv. Speaking Voice (2 pts)
- Communicated Message (22 points)
 - v. Launch (3 pts)
 - vi. Explore (8 pts)
 - vii. Apply (8 pts)
 - viii. Close (3 pts)

Course Grade

Reading	10 points
Worksheets (#1 to #4)	30 points
3 Communication Projects	
Small group project	15 points
Written project or evangelistic project	15 points
Large Group Message	<u>30 points</u>
Total	100 points

IBS Grading Scale:

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

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

DAILY SCHEDULE/READING DUE/ASSIGNMENTS DUE

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

Pre Work –

Listen to FORCE/contextualization lecture prior to class (lecture in the student drive) (and fill out lecture notes)

Watch the worldview video (only 7 minutes) -

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=13&v=n2XNoAFtqOw

Complete Worksheet #1 – Contextualization interview

Chapell's lectures. You will listen (or read the manuscripts) of 4 of Brian Chapell's lectures on the Gospel Coalition Website. <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/christ-centered-preaching/#course-introduction>

You will listen to (or read) the following lectures:

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- Chapter 8

Read all of Georges' book, *3D Gospel*.

Chapter from Jabbour, *Crescent Through the Eyes of the Cross* – included in the student drive for this class.

Listen to Keller lecture – Preaching to Believers and Unbelievers – included in the student drive for this class.

Read Appendices 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 in the back of your student notes

Monday, June 3

MORNING

Reading due: all of the above

Assignment due: Nothing

9:30-10:20am

Lecture #1: Redemptive Communication (FC/RS/MBI)

10:30-12:00

Workshop #1

Point to Christ: JSB – “The Terrible Lie”

Discussion: Contextualization/ 3D gospel

Discussion: FC/RS/MBI

Speaking Drill - Gestures

Homework

Worksheet #2 – FC/RS/MBI (Due by 5:00pm today).

AFTERNOON

Reading due: Appendix 7

Assignment due: Worksheet #2 – FC/RS/MBI

2:00-2:40pm

Lecture #2: Small Group Communication

2:50-4:30

Workshop #2

Point to Christ: JSB – “The Present”

Discussion: Small Group Lesson

Homework

Communication Project #1 – Small Group project (Due Wednesday by 9:00am)

Tuesday, June 4

MORNING

Reading due: Appendices 8, 9, 10
Assignment due: none

9:30-10:20am

Lecture #3: Preparing Large Group Messages

10:30-12:00

Workshop #3

Point to Christ: JSB – “The Girl Nobody Wanted”
Discussion: Large Group Template
Speaking Drill – Eye Contact

Homework

Continue working on Small Group lesson (Due Wednesday by 9:00am)
Worksheet #3 – Outline of message (Due Thursday by 9:00am)

AFTERNOON

Reading due: None
Assignment due: None

1:00-3:30pm

Lecture: No lecture – go straight to coaching group

Workshop #4

Sample message
Debrief Message
Point to Christ: JSB “Washed with Tears”

Homework

Continue working on Small Group lesson (Due Wednesday by 9:00am)
Continue working on Worksheet #3 – Outline of message (Due Thursday by 9:00am)

Wednesday, June 5

MORNING

Reading due: Appendices 11, 12

Assignment due: Small Group communication project

9:30-10:20am

Lecture #4: Narrative Evangelism

10:30-12:00

Workshop #5

Point to Christ: “The Little Servant Girl and the Proud General”

Discussion: Narrative Evangelism

Speaking Drill: Fallen Condition

Homework

Continue Worksheet #3 – Outline of message (Due Thursday by 9:00am)

Communication project #2 – Evangelism report (Due Sunday by 9:00pm)

AFTERNOON

Reading due: None

Assignment due: None

1:00-1:40pm

Lecture #5: Written Communication

1:50-3:30pm

Workshop #6

Point to Christ: “The Teeny, Weenie... True King”

Discussion: Writing exercise

Speaking Drill: Launch

Homework

Continue working on Worksheet #3 – Outline of message (Due Thursday by 9:00am)

Communication Project #3: Evangelism/Discipleship article (Due Friday by 9:00am)

Thursday, June 6

MORNING

Reading due: None

Assignment due: Worksheet #3 – Outline of Message

9:00-9:50am

Lecture #6: Christ-Centered living and ministry – Marc Rutter

10:00-11:30

Workshop #7

Point to Christ: “The Little Servant Girl and the Proud General”

Discussion: Debrief Interview

Discussion: Applying the class

Homework

Continue to work on Evangelism/Discipleship Article (Due Friday by 9:00am)

Work on messages

Complete Cultural Competency Interview (Worksheet #1) by Sunday, March 3 by 9:00pm.

AFTERNOON

1:00-4:30

“Office hours” with Coaches

No lecture or coaching group. Work on your messages and discipleship articles

Friday, June 7

8:00am-12:30pm

Deliver Messages

Due: Written communication piece

About your message:

- You will have 20 minutes to give your talk. We would like you to deliver your entire talk during that time.
- Two people, plus the coach, will be evaluating you.
- Timer cards are available if you wish them; recruit someone in class to help you.
- Because there are so many of us, talk times need to move crisply.
- Your talk will be worth 30 points

Reading Report

(To be submitted electronically to your coach)

Date Due	Reading Due	Assigned Pages	# Pages Completed
Monday AM, February 25	Chapell, Lectures 1-4 Keller, Center Church ch. 7-10 Georges and Baker – Ch. 8 Jabbour, <i>Crescent through the Eyes of the Cross</i> , ch 11 Georges – 3D gospel Listen to audio lecture titled “Preaching to Believers and Unbelievers” (posted online) Appendix 1, “Developing Biblical Messages” Appendix 2, “Delivery Skills” Appendix 3, “Heart Longings” Appendix 5, “Getting to the Heart of the Fallen Condition” Appendix 6, “Developing a Message Big Idea (MBI)”	200	
Monday, PM February 25	Appendix 7, “Asking Christ-Centered Questions that Target the Heart”	2	
Tuesday, February 26	Appendix 8, “Going from the MBI to Apply” Appendix 9, “Getting to the Heart of the MBI” Appendix 10, “The A-Z of telling stories”	9	
Wednesday, February 27	Appendix 11, “How to Paint a Fallen Condition” Appendix 12, “Thinking of sin/redemption as a tree”	6	
	Total	229	