Biblical Communication

**Course Facilitator: Jeff Lark, Th.M.**

## *Institute of Biblical Studies*

**January 13–17, 2020**

**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 and increasing in our understanding of people (as created, fallen and redeemed). Biblical Communication exist to help you contextualize scriptural teaching for ethnically and culturally diverse audiences as you grow in your capacity to communicate the Scriptures in a Christ-centered way.

## 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 ensure 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:

**F**aithful to the whole story of the Bible

**O**bvious from the passage

**R**elated to the fallen condition in the heart of the hearer

**C**onnected to Christ’s redemption

**E**ngaging the heart and mind in culturally relevant ways

## 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 and 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 and 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).

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1. 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, 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

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**Required Texts**

(There are Kindle versions of these books available. The IBSN 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.]

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.

## Learning Tasks

1. **Reading:** (1) You will read 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 read 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.
4. **Communication Projects:**
   1. **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)**

* 1. **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). You will also describe your personal experience using this method of evangelism.

* 1. **Written Communication article:** You will 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 will contextualize for a specific or a general audience.
  2. **Delivery of your Large Group Message:** You will develop a 20-minute large-group message on the passage you studied throughout the *Biblical Interpretation* 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.

- Two people, plus the coach, will evaluate your message.

Delivery (8 points)

* + - * 1. Gestures (2 pts)
        2. Eyes (2 pts)
        3. Movement and Posture (2 pts)
        4. Speaking Voice (2 pts)

Communicated Message (22 points)

1. Launch (2 pts)
2. Explore (6 pts)
3. Connect (6)
4. Apply (6 pts)
5. Close (2 pts)

## Course Grade

Reading 10 % (Turn in the reading report to your coach)

Worksheets (#1–#4) 30 %

Communication Projects

Small Group Project 15 %

Written or Evangelism 15 %

Large Group Message 30 %

Total 100pts

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.

**Pre-Class**

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

* Chapell, *Christ Centered Preaching* 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” ([Manuscript](https://drive.google.com/open?id=15HcWTW8IhJPCm3YhOw7eCkdPYoWzdM5g))
* “A Redemptive approach to preaching” ([Manuscript](https://drive.google.com/open?id=15M-SfdZuQxCIVZnZWUEAUWqVLsL79JX_))
* “Developing redemptive messages” ([Manuscript](https://drive.google.com/open?id=15FYNHZI1NU_oWVnJ4qD-oeWFT22KJ3BW))
* “Preaching Christ-centered application” ([Manuscript](https://drive.google.com/open?id=15QfESrWPjBIatYeZ5gPBxdn_IPBuMTWE))

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

* Read Keller, *Center Church,* chs. 7-10
* Read Georges and Baker’s, *Ministering in Honor-Shame Cultures,* ch. 8.
* Read all of Georges, *3D Gospel.*
* Read Jabbour, [*Crescent Through the Eyes of the Cross*](https://drive.google.com/open?id=154gXUchBXptcM4t4U0ikHePbbd9NlimY) – included in the Student Drive (Google) for this class.
* Listen to Keller lecture – [*Preaching to Believers and Unbelievers*](https://drive.google.com/open?id=15F5SGCpoFsVqZlgCwEBKjCSCNKn0CPNH) – included in the Student Drive (Google) for this class.