Biblical Communication

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

## *Institute of Biblical Studies*

**July 13–24, 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

**Required Texts**

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

“Thinking Biblically about Cultures,” in *Our Cultural Journey*. (Orlando, FL: Cru, 2016), 37–55.

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 Lesson 4 in *Our Cultural Journey*. We need to grow in our ability to contextualize the gospel and these chapters are very helpful in describing the what and why of contextualization. (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. **Assignments**
   1. **Cultural Learning Interview:** 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.
   2. **FC/RS/MBI:** You will share your FC/RS/MBI for your passage with your coach for feedback.
   3. **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.
      2. **Large Group Message Outline:** From sermons to weekly meetings to other gatherings staff are expected to know how to handle the Bible rightly and present it to a large audience. You will develop an outline for a large group message using Launch, Explore, Connect, and Apply. The launch and close will be written out word-for-word. The rest will be in detailed outline format.
      3. **Small Group Devotional Outline:** Much of the Bible teaching Cru staff engage in is in a smaller group devotional format. A devotional is a cross between a larger group presentation and a small group study. You will develop an outline for a Small Group Devotional using Launch, Explore, Connect, and Apply. You will have a mixture of questions and summary statements. You will mix what you have learned from both small and large groups as you compose your devotional.
      4. **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. **Delivery:** You will have an opportunity to choose between delivering the large group message or the small group devotional you outlined. Both will be done live in front of your coaching group and will be graded by your coach according to the criteria for each delivery mode (either a large group or a devotional). You will have 25 minutes for the delivery of the content.

## Course Grade

Reading 10 %

Assignments 10 %

Communication Projects

Small Group Project 15 %

Small Group Devotional Outline 10 %

Large Group Outline 10%

Evangelism 15%

Delivery (large group OR devo) 30%

Total 100%

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: You need a C- or better to pass this class**

**Pre-Class**

* **Watch** [**worldview video**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=13&v=n2XNoAFtqOw) (only 7 minutes) -
* **Complete** [Assignment #1](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1pritOf7uUP4QOyMMtXRUVNrb4sd8P_ihcB6mPpCJzTQ/edit?usp=sharing) – Contextualization interview due by Monday, July 13th before 10:00am Central Time.
* Chapell, *Christ Centered Preaching* lectures: Listen (or read the manuscripts) to four of Brian Chapell’s lectures on the [Gospel Coalition Website](https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/christ-centered-preaching/#course-introduction).

Listen to (or read) the following lectures:

* “What’s the Big Idea” ([Manuscript](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1QseMY2DFutZ-dTsfZFUr0SZ88aF0MhsS))
* “A Redemptive approach to preaching” ([Manuscript](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1qaSMSMpARNhwSEHefrfUX5dMM-Cd7SCJ))
* “Developing redemptive messages” ([Manuscript](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1lVT2Q5X44dZcnPybNeA7MujLJ_1E0UpY))
* “Preaching Christ-centered application” ([Manuscript](https://drive.google.com/open?id=11V1Pd61-bwvQByIyBk6viX8pCFRI9NpU))
* Read “Thinking Biblically about Culture” in [*Our Cultural Journey*](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1l45v4-Dsga2CPeHwt0W8d2YTLTLbsVCT)
* 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=1DDhc-AW4Ik1t0tJa9LB6W2ov9PqqtyJC)
* Listen to Keller lecture – [*Preaching to Believers and Unbelievers*](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1_FLtkxR0ZPxWyIUG7x7lkYuVQFomtx_N)

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