

Study the Bible for Yourself Syllabus

Course Summary

This course is designed to provide a practical guide and exercises to enable the student of the Bible to be able to read the Bible more intelligently, to research basic questions about the Bible, to understand the basic principles of interpretation of Scripture with a view toward applying the Bible more consistently in their life.

Who Can Benefit?

Any believer, from a recent convert or biblical illiterate to a more seasoned advanced student will benefit from this class. This will be especially helpful for anyone from a parent to a Sunday School teacher who seeks to communicate the Bible to anyone else.

Objectives:

That the student can learn how to read the Bible intelligently for themselves, how to use basic study tools to investigate and research basic issues in the Bible, how to properly interpret the Bible. I want to develop students who are well on their way to biblical literacy and who are cultivating good habits of Bible reading and personal Bible study.

The student will come to learn the basic method of Bible study based on observation-interpretation, correlation, and application method of Bible study.

For the non-professional Bible student this will greatly enhance what you get out of Bible class. The believer who is not a teacher of the Word will always need to heavily rely upon their pastor-teacher for in depth study of the Word, but with a basic understanding of Bible study methods, everyone can learn to “pan for gold” more effectively, while relying on the pastor-teachers to be the mining engineers who take them to the “mother-lodes” of biblical teaching.

For the bible college or seminary student, this course will introduce you to basic bible study methods and tools which will then become the foundation for developing exegetical skills as your studies continue.

For Sunday school teachers, CEF teachers, camp directors and counselors, and parents who want to teach their children the Bible.

This course is designed to provide something for every level of Bible student and will be recorded for use by Chafer Seminary Bible students.

Required:

Howard Hendricks, [*Living By the Book*](#), and [*Living By the Book Workbook*](#).

A good study Bible. My primary recommendation is a *Ryrie Study Bible* NASB 95 translation (It is also available in KJV and NIV). The *ESV Study Bible*, the *Thomas Nelson Study Bible* in NKJV are also very good. I don't recommend the NIV Study Bible, because the translation is not the best for personal Bible Study, though many of the notes and maps are of high quality. Not all Study Bibles, even the best, are without their problems. But they have very good features including outlines, summaries of doctrine, cross references, small concordances, maps, etc. The value of the *Ryrie* and *Thomas Nelson Study Bibles* is that they are written from a fairly unified, dispensational perspective. *Ryrie* more so since it is the work of one man.

A **Concordance** (NASB Concordance is excellent),

A **notebook** and **pen**.

Suggested Reading:

It might also be helpful to have the following in your library:

A good **Bible Handbook**. I usually recommend *Unger's Bible Handbook* which has been updated with illustrations.

A good **Bible Dictionary**. I usually recommend *Unger's Bible Dictionary*, but there are a number of other excellent Bible Dictionaries and Encyclopedias.

If you have a computer, you can sign up for the Logos *Faithlife* Study Bible and this gives you free access to the Logos Study Bible, and their Bible Dictionary and maps and other graphic features. This is a fairly good deal, but the notes and articles are not all written from the same theological perspective, some are free grace, some Lordship, some dispensational, some not, etc.

A good **Bible Atlas**. ESV has a good Bible Atlas. Zondervan Bible Atlas is excellent. And a new one, the Satellite Bible Atlas has just been announced. This comes with a number of online and digital features as well. Watch the video on the link. <http://www.biblearchaeology.org/bookstore/product.aspx?id=274>

Roy Zuck, *Basic Bible Interpretation*

Schedule (Fall period)

Class will not meet on Oct 20 (Israel event); Dec 1, 29; and the yet to be determined dates in January when Dr. Dean will be in Kiev.

Each class will be 90 minutes long with a 15-20 minute break for in class assignments.

Sept 29	Class 1 Hendricks, ch. 1-4 An overview of the course and an overview of basic tools used for Bible study. Why study the Bible? The importance of the Bible.
Oct 6	Read Hendricks, ch 5, 6. Do assigned exercises. Understanding inductive Bible study methods vs. deductive Bible study methods. Beginning to observe.
Oct 13	Hendricks, ch. 7, 8 Observation exercises on John 20:31, learning to observe the text.
Oct 20	No class
Oct 27	Hendricks, ch. 9-11, Read all five chapters of James as many times as you can. Elements of observations: structure, grammar, words. James 1:19
Nov 3	Hendricks ch 12-14. exercises Probing Nehemiah 1:4-11
Nov 10	Hendricks 15-17 Working with Acts 1:8
Nov 17	Hendricks 18-20 Working with Mark 11:27-12:44
Nov 24	Off
Dec 1	Off
Dec 8	To be determined

Dec 15 To be determined

Dec 23, Jan 30 Off for the holidays

Class will resume sometime in late January.