



# Bible Study 101

The BARN • Covenant Presbyterian Church

## Fall 2013 Course Syllabus



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Welcome to Bible Study 101! This course is an online course, which is a new type of adult education offering for the church. Online learning is growing by leaps and bounds, in part because it offers a more flexible way for people to learn in our busy and heavily scheduled society. We're pleased to be able to offer the benefits of online learning to the congregation. Please let me know what you think of the format and let me know if there are adjustments you would like to make the course work better for you.

### How to Contact Me

Please remember that I work a day job, and so I am generally unavailable during the work day. I will normally respond within 24 hours, and sometimes faster than that. I prefer email communication, but you can also text me or call me in the evenings or on a weekend.

### Bible Study 101 Course Description

This course is an introductory course in how to study the Bible. It begins with Bible basics, including some background about the structure of the Bible. Then we dive into some hands-on instruction in Bible study methods. We will begin with an approach called the *inductive method*, which will be the foundation for the rest of the course. You will also learn an approach called the *deductive method*, which is helpful for topical Bible studies. Then you will learn to select and use a variety of Bible study aids, such as Bible dictionaries and commentaries. Finally, you will learn how to apply what you learn to your life, and you will develop a personal Bible study plan to help make Bible study a regular part of your life. Throughout the course, you will learn primarily by doing—short teaching segments lead to hands-on practice activities.

### Course Goals

These are the course goals for Bible Study 101:

- Explain the basic structure of the Bible
- Apply basic principles of interpretation to determine the meaning of a Bible passage, including the inductive and deductive methods
- Use Bible study aids to determine the historical and cultural context of a Bible passage and use it to determine the meaning of the passage
- Apply scripture to your life
- Develop a personal Bible study plan

## Course Text

You will need a Bible. One of the following translations is recommended for this course:

- English Standard Version (ESV)
- New American Standard (NASB)
- New King James Version (NKJV)
- New International Version (NIV) [Note: the NIV was revised in 2011; many people prefer the old 1984 version to the new version]

## Schedule

Week	Topic	Activities
1	Module 1: Bible Basics	Course introduction, structure of Old and New Testaments, start reflection journal
2	Module 2: Inductive Bible Study	Learning to observe, inductive Bible study skills
3	Module 3: Deductive Bible Study	Deductive Bible study skills
4	Module 4: Using Bible Study Aids	Explore and use Bible study aids, create resource wiki, historical and cultural context
5	Module 5: Bible Study for Your Life	Application action plan, personal Bible study plan

Please note that it is important to stick to the schedule. It will be hard to participate with your fellow students if you fall behind. You should plan to spend at least 3 hours per week on the course.

## Assignments

This is not a course in school, and your work will not be graded. However, it is important for you to get feedback on your work in this course. Some of that will be through self-assessments or self-evaluations. Some will come through instructor comments on your work. Remember that the purpose of both the assignments and any evaluation or feedback is so that you can learn.

Assignments will be posted on Haiku, which is the learning management system we will use for the course. Be sure to log in at least a couple of times per week in case there are any announcements.

This is a tentative list of assignments for the course:

- Bible Books Reflection
- Practice Quiz: The Old Testament
- Practice Quiz: The New Testament
- Module 1 Learning Checkpoint: Structure of the Old and New Testaments
- Staring at Fruit Reflection
- Inductive Method: Analyze a Passage (Parts 1, 2, 3, and 4)
- Module 2 Learning Checkpoint: Passage Analysis
- Deductive Method: Analyze a Passage
- Module 3 Learning Checkpoint: Passage Analysis
- Bible Study Aids: Historical Context
- Study Aid Plan and Reflection
- Advanced Passage Analysis
- Bible Study Aids: Cultural Context
- Application Action Plan

- Bible Study Plan

### **Accommodations**

Reflections and other written assignments are an important part of the learning process in this course. However, not everyone feels comfortable and confident with writing, and some people lack good keyboarding skills, which can turn writing into an onerous task. For any written assignments, you are welcome to substitute an alternate response, including an audio or video file. For video files, upload them to YouTube and then submit the URL for your video in place of a written response. For audio files, contact the instructor to arrange the best delivery method. If you have other ways of responding that you would like to try, contact the instructor to discuss them.