

Information Sheet: The Bible Course – get the BIG picture

Introduction

This is an 8 session course produced by the Bible Society in Britain to help participants understand the Bible for themselves. It aims to show the big picture of the Bible storyline – from Genesis to Revelation and has three great aims:

Learn it – understand the Bible for yourself
Live it – apply the bible to your life
Love it – make the Bible your priority and passion

Summary of the sessions

Session 1 – Introducing the Bible – explores what the Bible is, how it was formed and how we should handle the Bible.

Session 2 – Creation and Covenant – looks at the creation accounts, sin and judgement and the big picture of Genesis chapters 1 to 11 showing the link from Abraham to Jesus.

Session 3 – Exodus and the Promised Land – takes us through the events of the exodus and the significance of the law, the tabernacle and sacrifices for us today.

Session 4 – Judges and Kings – outlines the history of God's people and the significance of the events recorded in these books of the Old Testament.

Session 5 – Exile and the Prophets – offers us the big picture of the remaining books in the Old Testament looking at characters like Elijah and Jonah and the key theme of waiting and expectancy in the message of the prophets.

Session 6 – Jesus and the Gospels – explores what the Gospels are, how they might be read and the life of Jesus through the key events of confession, transfiguration, crucifixion and resurrection.

Session 7 – Acts and the Church – looks at events following the ascension of Jesus, the birth and growth of the Church and its first writings.

Session 8 – Revelation and Review – offers us an understanding of Book of Revelation and reviews the whole course asking how we read the Bible ending with an exercise of study and prayer on Psalm 1 verses 1-3.

More on the course

The course is presented for participants in an attractive spiral bound booklet of 150 pages with notes on each aspect of the sessions and room for notes to be added by those participating. There is a helpful glossary of technical terms that you will come across as you engage with the Course e.g. covenant, exegesis, hermeneutics, Pentateuch to name but four. The course outlined in these booklets has alongside it DVD teaching from the author and presenter of the course, Rev Andrew Ollerton, an ordained minister and theologian.

The pastor of one church that has used the course says this of it, *"The Bible Course is a great resource. It helps address a huge need by skillfully giving a big picture overview of the Bible. Simple yet scholarly, practical yet profound, it will significantly benefit people at all stages of their spiritual journey"*

Dr Dave Smith. Senior Pastor, Kingsgate Church, Peterborough, UK

