

Licentiate Course Outline: 2018-19
Journeying through the Bible:
A Guide to Leading Bible Studies



Location: TBA
Day(s): TBA
Time: TBA

Instructor(s): Rev. Janet Anstead
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Requirements for this Course:

- 1) Passion for Scripture
- 2) Interest in developing and leading a Bible Study
- 3) Openness to look with new eyes at familiar Biblical passages.

Course Syllabus:

Session 1 3 hrs	<p>Introduction</p> <p>Lebanese Proverb: <i>If you travel a great deal, (or if you get detoured or lost), you are beloved of God, for God wishes to show you more of God's creation.</i></p> <p>The preparation and presentation of a Bible Study is very much like a two-fold journey. With all the possible pitfalls and obstacles any journey faces... but also the wonderful opportunity for growth and transformation. Remember it's not about the destination but all about the journey!</p> <p>First – in the preparation – you must make the journey alone. Like any journey you 'see' things that you've never seen before, experience things you've never experienced before, and learn things you didn't know before. In short you are changed by the journey.</p> <p>Secondly – in the presentation – you do not simply tell your audience about your experience but lead them on the same journey. You must try to recreate your journey experience so that those accompanying you 'discover' with wonder and excitement the same new visions, new experiences and new learnings themselves: so that they too are changed by their journey. But at the same time, though you are retracing your steps, you must be prepared to wander into new territory as your travelling companions may lead you.</p>	Barton Chapter 1 (21 pages)
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Session 2 3 hrs	<p>First Step: Your personal Journey of Preparation</p> <p>Warning! Culture Shock possible!</p> <p>Whenever we travel we often find our own assumptions, beliefs, comfort zones challenged. In order to have them challenged we have to know what the starting point is. Therefore the very first thing to do to prepare yourself for a Bible Study is to have in your own mind an understanding (perhaps not written in stone) of your own theology of scripture. What is your understanding of scripture? Are these words the absolute word of God without error, omission, or addition? Or, are these testimonies of humans struggling to express their encounter with the divine; as human and therefore flawed as their human authors? Is there room for interpretation and discernment or is there one absolute and immutable meaning?</p> <p><i>Most importantly are you able to find room to ‘agree to disagree’ with others?</i></p>	Barton Chapter 2 (26 pages)
Session 3 3 hrs	<p>Stick a pin in a map! Where do you want to go?</p> <p>The first step in any journey is to decide on a general destination. There are as many ways to pick a subject for Bible Study as there are for picking travel destinations. What is the goal going to be?</p> <p>Theme or Image? Passage? Book? Overview?</p> <p>Trains, Planes and Automobiles? Modes of Transportation into scripture:</p> <p>Now it is time to pick your mode of transportation - what ‘vehicle’ will you use to open up scripture? Many times the subject you pick will, by its very nature, suggest an appropriate ‘vehicle’. Similarly certain passages ‘become more accessible depending on the critical approach you use.</p> <p>Historical Criticism Genre Criticism Literary Approach Language Exploration Dramatization Inconsistencies Repetitions Parallels and Patterns Author Interfaith context</p>	Barton Chapter 3 & 4 (60 pages)
Session 4 3 hrs	<p>Packing your back-pack</p> <p>So, you have prepared yourself emotionally, picked your destination and decided how to get there --- all that is left is to prepare your resources – pack your bags!!!</p>	<p>Mini- Bible Studies</p> <p>Barton Chapter 5</p>

	<p>Time for departure!!!!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live with it • Research if necessary • Prepare notes • Pray, pray and pray. • Eyes wide open • Don't watch your feet but your surroundings • Be sensitive to that "Aha" moment • New way of seeing • New way of applying • Deeper understanding 	(22 Pages)
Session 5 3 hrs	<p>Second Step: The Community Journey</p> <p>The most important thing about a Bible study is that those in the audience (or community) experience the 'Aha' moment for themselves. It may be the same as you experienced or it may be distinctly their own. To do so, in a very real sense, you have to leave yourself behind on this trip. You do all the work, all the preparation, start them on the path then step aside and let the Holy Spirit through!</p> <p>Creating Community</p> <p>How are you going to get the community engaged in this journey? How are you going to create an environment where they will be willing to open their minds and hearts to new ideas or revelations which will challenge their old perceptions and understandings? Remember, you prepared yourself emotionally – those who are going to accompany you on this journey deserve the same courtesy.</p> <p>Ensure all are comfortable on the journey</p> <p>Participation (hear different voices)</p> <p>Flexibility</p> <p>Application (arguably the ultimate goal of any journey – applying the new learning to their world/society/life)</p> <p>Something tangible to take home</p> <p>Logistics</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be sensitive to timing – long journeys can be tedious 2. Physical comfort 3. Get the Lay of the land 4. Flipchart/White Board 5. Participation Aids 6. Contemporary Application aids (lyrics etc) <p>Pre-Departure</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prayer 2. Overview (relieves anxiety creates trust) 3. Create safe travelling environment 	Barton Chapter 6 (21 pages)
Session 6 3 hrs	<p>Departure</p> <p>It is always important to begin and end in a safe and comfortable place. Do not rush the community into the challenges too soon.</p>	Barton Chapter 7 (21 pages)

	<p>Also, after they have stretched themselves lead them back to a safe and comfortable place.</p> <p>In the comfort zone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Passage Application Closed questions <p>Beyond the comfort zone</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduce the things you discovered on your journey but NOT the 'Aha' moment. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical facts • Language issues • Highlight certain things 2. Discussion – open questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do they see • What are they experiencing • What do they hear • What are they learning <p>Back to the comfort zone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application of new insights Recognition of the change Review where we have travelled 	
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** Note that the syllabus is structured for six (6) three hour sessions. It may also be presented in an 'intensive' (weekend(s)) format as well.

Course Materials:

Participants should bring a Bible to each session.

Required Texts: John Barton; the Bible: The Basics, Routledge 2010, London, New York

*Available in e-book form, through Amazon or 2 hour reserve at Huron Library
Other Material as provided by the Instructor.*

Assignments & Method of Evaluation of Assignments:

*** If the course is being presented in an intensive format the timing for assignments will differ and be discussed at the beginning of the first class.*

Course Requirements:

1. Attendance and participation in each session.
2. Completion of required reading prior to each session.

(The sessions are not dependent on the readings so participants are encouraged to read the entire book prior to beginning the course. Also, in order to cover all the material and to allow for presentation time in Session 4, the material covered in Session 4 may begin in any time left over after Session 3 concludes.)

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3. Assignments:

- a. Each student shall lead a mini Bible Study of a passage of their choosing to their peers during Session 4
- b. A Bible Study will be prepared appropriate for presentation to a congregation or other gathering. **This will be submitted for marking prior to presenting it.**
- c. The Bible Study prepared by the student will be presented to a congregation after which the student shall prepare a 2 page Reflection on the experience.

Grading:

Class participation	20%
In Class presentation	30%
Bible Study	40%
Reflection	10%

Additional Statements:

1. **Support Services:**

- Huron's Faculty of Theology, Office of the Dean:
http://www.huronuc.on.ca/faculty_of_theology/info_for_current_students
- Continuing Education and Non-Degree Program Co-ordinator, Faculty of Theology:
jmanstead@uwo.ca
- Faculty of Theology office: srice@uwo.ca, 519-438-7224, ext. 289
- Huron's Writing Skills Centre: http://www.huronuc.on.ca/student_life/writing_services

2. **Accommodation for absences:**

If documentation is required for either medical or non-medical academic accommodation, then such documentation must be submitted by the student directly to the Dean of Theology's office (Room A227) and not to the instructor. It will be the Dean's office that will determine if accommodation is warranted.

a) **Non-medical absences:**

Participants are expected to be present for the entire course.

Late assignments will be penalized at the rate of 10% per day.