



Introduction to the Bible

WINTER/SPRING 2009
taught by Dave Herring
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Class Description: Designed to introduce the basic building blocks about the Bible that can help us to better understand the Bible and its story as a whole.

Class Objectives: Although time is always limited and many of us are busy, the objectives for the learners in this class are as follows:

- To understand the overarching Bible story and it's key historical events
- To learn all the books of the Bible and how they are organized
- To gain familiarity with how the Bible was formed
- To grow in appreciation of the historical context of biblical history
- To understand how the Bible is translated and get familiar with major translations
- To gain an appreciation and understanding of the importance of the study of original languages of the biblical texts
- To build a glossary/dictionary of terms related to studying the Bible
- To learn about God as he inspired men to write about Jesus Christ

Class Format: We will review at the beginning of each class, we will have around 45 minutes of teaching, and then we will take questions. Please save your questions for the dedicated Q&A session, so we can work through the material. **Write them down as they arise.** Dave reserves the right to take questions at any point depending upon the material. There will not be grades in this class. Repetition/review along with Q&A is the preferred methods of learning and teaching for this class. A "light" exam might be given at the end of our class.

Recommended Books:

Everything You Want to Know About the Bible, by Peter Downey & Ben Shaw (\$12.44)

A Beginner's Guide to Reading the Bible, by Craig Koester (\$11.99)

How to Read the Bible for All It's Worth, by Doug Stuart & Gordon Fee (\$11.55)

ESV Study Bible, by Crossway Books (\$29.99), accessible at: www.esvstudybible.org
(email: info@haverhillcc.org, password: hcc)

These books are available at Christian Book Distributors (christianbook.com), Amazon.com, Allbookstores.com, etc. *Please see me if you want any of these books but don't know how to get them

Costs and Fees: This class is being offered FREE to anyone as a ministry of Haverhill Community Church. The only other costs are time and effort. The Bible is not easy for most people, and, in order to be learned properly, takes time.

Attendance: If you are serious about learning about the Scriptures, then attendance isn't an issue. If you cannot make it on Wednesdays, we will be recording the sessions and will provide handouts for each session. We will make these available on our resource table each Sunday and post the materials on our website.



Our Plan for Study: We plan to cover the topics below for the next couple of months. This is a fluid schedule and not set in stone, so we may add, delete, or insert certain things as time allows.

2/11 – Introduction to class, diagnostic quiz, overview of Bible

2/18 – Key Historical Dates/Events in Biblical History

2/25 – The Theological Nature of the Bible

3/4 – How the Books of the Bible Were Chosen

3/11 – The Original Languages of the Biblical Texts

3/18 – The Biblical Texts: How They Were Copied and Preserved

3/25 – How the Bible has Been Translated & Popular English Translations

4/1 – Other Ancient Cultures Related to Biblical History

4/8 – Ancient Texts That Help Us Understand the Bible

4/15 – What a Covenant Is and How It Helps Us Understand the Bible

4/22 – The Genres of the Biblical Texts

4/29 – How the Bible is Structured/Organized

5/6 – The Geography of Bible Times

5/13 – How the Bible has been Criticized