



Adult Learning Opportunity

Next Steps with the Bible: Going Deeper and Growing Stronger

Wednesday evenings 6:30-7:45 • September 18-December 12, 2019

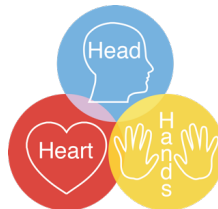
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Description

Recently CP added a phrase to its mission statement that we had hopefully been assuming all along: “**rooted . . . in the Bible.**” Understanding the Bible **transforms** how we **follow Jesus**. Understanding the Bible fuels our **passion in responding to God**. Understanding the Bible **energizes our prayers**. Understanding the Bible equips us to **equip other disciples**.

Maybe you’ve been thinking that you need a better grip on the Bible. Maybe you have questions about the Bible you don’t know how to answer. Maybe you’ve been asked to teach, but feel inadequate. If this sort of thing is on your mind, this class is for you. We will work together on how to study, understand, and apply the Bible more accurately and effectively. We will learn how to use the many resources found in a study Bible as we focus our attention on the book of Jude (yes, there is a book called Jude in the Bible). We will at other passages all over the Bible to illustrate and apply what we are learning.

Learning Outcomes



Sanctify them through your truth; your word is truth. (John 17:17)

The Spirit of God uses the word of God to form the people of God as followers of the Son of God. As we learn how to understand the Bible better, we expect that the information will lead to transformation as we depend on the Spirit to enlighten us. Our *knowledge* will be deepened, our *attitudes* will be impacted, and our *actions* will be more like Christ’s. We will grow in biblical knowledge, develop a deeper devotion to God, and gain wisdom and skill in living for him.

This class is designed to open up your understanding of the Bible by explaining and showing how to:

- *evaluate* the many different translations of the Bible.
- *grasp* how the whole Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, fits together.
- *understand* the many different genres (kinds of literature) that are found in the Bible.
- *use* the many resources of a Study Bible.
- *study* a book of the Bible verse by verse.
- *apply* the Bible to life today.

Recommended Resources

The following resources will be helpful for your growth in understanding the Bible. They are *optional* tools for the class. Consider them as supplemental to attending the class sessions.

- Primary resource: A good study Bible, such as the ESV, NIV, or NLT
 - *ESV Study Bible* (Wheaton: Crossway, 2008).
 - *NIV Zondervan Study Bible* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2015).
 - *NLT Illustrated Study Bible* (Carol Stream: Tyndale House, 2015)
- Books on how to read the Bible
 - Gordon Fee and Douglas Stuart, *How to Read the Bible and Get More Out of It* 4th ed. (Grand Rapids; Zondervan, 2014).
 - Mark Strauss, *How to Read the Bible in Changing Times* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2011.)
- Basic study tools such as Bible dictionaries, encyclopedias, atlases, word studies, and commentaries
- Helpful online resources:
 - Bible Atlas (combined atlas and encyclopedia- <https://bibleatlas.org/>)
 - Bible Atlas (detailed maps with biblical references- http://www.ultimatebiblereferencelibrary.com/001_The_Bible_Atlas.pdf)
 - Bible Gateway (access almost 60 English translations and other resources- <https://www.biblegateway.com/>)
 - Bible Hub (combination concordance and encyclopedia- <https://biblehub.com/encyclopedia/>)
 - Blue Letter Bible (Bible with study tools- <https://www.blueletterbible.org/>)
 - NET Bible (online study Bible- <https://netbible.org/bible/>)
 - WebBible Encyclopedia- <https://christiananswers.net/dictionary/home.html>)

Tentative Schedule

1. **Sept 18:** Understanding Bible Translations: What's the Difference?
Optional Assignment: Pick a few verses of Jude and read it in the ESV, NIV, and NLT (others if you like). What sort of similarities and differences do you notice?
2. **Sept 25:** Understanding the Big Story: The Bible from Genesis to Revelation
Optional Assignment: Read through Jude. Where does Jude refer to other parts of the grand narrative? Read it again to see if you missed anything.
3. **Oct 2:** Understanding the Chapters of the Story: the Different Kinds of Books in the Biblical Library
Optional Assignment: What kind of book is Jude? How does it fit this genre?
4. **Oct 9:** Understanding the Four Basic Steps of Bible Study: Observation, Interpretation, Correlation, and Application
Optional Assignment: Pick a "chunk" (a few verses) of Jude and practice the four steps.

5. Oct 16: Understanding the NT Letters: Encouraging and Correcting the Churches
Optional Assignment: Make a two-level outline of Jude based on its genre and content.

6. Oct 23: Understanding Biblical Narratives: How the Grand Story Unfolds
*Optional Assignment: Jude 11 refers to **Cain** (Gen 4; Heb 11:4; 1 John 3:12), **Balaam** (Num 22-24; 31; Deut 23:4-5; Josh 13:22; 24:9; Neh 13:2; Mic 6:5; 2 Pet 2:15; Rev 2:14), and **Korah** (Num 16; Num 26:9-11). Look at the biblical references to **one** of these people and jot down a few ideas on why Jude mentioned him.*

7. Oct 30: Understanding Biblical Poetry: It's about Parallel Ideas not Rhyme
Optional Assignment: Read through Jude and make a list of its figurative or poetic language.

8. Nov 6: Understanding Jesus' Parables: "God's Kingdom Is Like . . ."
Optional Assignment: Read Luke 15. How many parables are in this chapter? What is their common teaching? Who do the three main characters in the final parable represent?

9. Nov 13: Understanding the Wisdom Books: Proverbs, Job, Ecclesiastes
Optional Assignment: Read Proverbs 3. From this chapter, how would you describe "wisdom" and "folly"?

10. Nov 20: Understanding Biblical Prophecy: Preaching and Promising
Optional Assignment: Read through Jude and make a list of its prophetic verses.

[No Class Nov 27]

11. Dec 4: Understanding Biblical Apocalyptic: Visions of the End-times
Optional Assignment: Consult your list from last week (prophetic verses in Jude) and make some observations about how Jude describes the end times.

12. Dec 11: Understanding How to Apply the Bible to Life Today: Getting Serious about our Heads, Hearts, and Hands.

Optional Assignment: How does Jude apply to . . .

- . . . your personal life, as a follower of Jesus?*
- . . . your family life, as a son/daughter, spouse, parent, etc.?*
- . . . your neighborhood and relationships to friends?*
- . . . your career and relationships to co-workers?*
- . . . your involvement at Chapel Pointe?*

List several specific areas for reflection and action. Suggest specific steps.