How to Study the Bible and Pray

# Course Overview

## Description

Please Provide a Brief Course Description Here:… and then send the syllabus back to me…

## Expectations and Goals

Please Articulate the overall “burden” of class here, focusing on how the course will edify our local church unto the glory of God… and then send the syllabus back to me.

# Course Materials

## Source Materials

*Spiritual Disciplines*, Donald Whitney

*Habits of Grace*, David Mathis

*Others*…

## Required Readings

**Please include any required or strongly suggested reading for this class.**

# Course Schedule

| Week | Topic | Class Summary |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Week 1 | **The Importance of Bible Intake** | This class answers the question: Why is the Bible so critical for the Christian life? God’s inspired Word informs everything we believe and do as Christians. It gives us new life and sustains our spiritual life. This class will close by covering the critical method of Bible intake: hearing the Word with the local church. |
| Week 2 | **Reading the Bible** | We must eat spiritual food just as we eat physical food. Reading God’s Word is one of the primary ways we feast on God. We cannot ultimately rely on others’ knowledge of God to cultivate our own relationship with him. We need to go to God on our own in His Word. This class should help people see the value of **reading broadly** in God’s Word and help them think through making the time, having a plan, and praying through and meditating on what they read. |
| Week 3 | **Inductive Method I** | If reading broadly is like snorkeling, inductive studying is like scuba diving. This class introduces how to study texts closely through observation, interpretation, and application. Or, What does it say? What does it mean? What does it mean for me? This class focuses on how to **observe** the text by asking Who is speaking to whom? What are they saying? When are they saying it? Why do they say they are saying it? What is the context, etc.? |
| Week 4 | **Inductive Method II** | This class focuses on how to **interpret** a text. Observation tells us what the text *says,* and interpretation tells us what the text *means*. This class will teach Context Rules, Genre Letting scripture interpret scripture, authorial intent, looking for the main message, and looking for Christ. |
| Week 5 | **Inductive Method III** | This class addresses how to **apply** a text properly and **pray through it** as part of one’s quiet time. Does it point out *sin* in my life? What *assumptions* does it have that I don’t share? Is there a *command* to obey in the passage? Is there an *encouragement* in this text? Is there a *promise for me*? Does it teach me something about God? Does it teach me something about *myself?* What evidence for my *faith* does it give me? What will I *do* differently today because of this text? How can I model/share/teach this truth to encourage *others*? IV: How could my *family* or *church* apply this text? |
| Week 6 | **Inductive Method Put it into practice.** | Pick a short and accessible text of Scripture and, within the hour, **practice observation, interpretation, and application live** with the class. |
| Week 7 | **Reading and Studying the Old Testament** | This class will help people read the Old Testament fruitfully. They need to read the OT in **view of Jesus and the NT**. How does an Old Testament passage fit within the teaching of the New Testament? Ask these questions: Where does this passage fit in the timeline of redemptive history? How does this passage point to Jesus? How does this truth about OT Israel relate to the New Testament idea of the church? How is this passage foundational for an understanding of New Testament Christianity? Which New Testament passages help me to answer these questions? How is this passage a fulfillment of something promised in the Old Testament? |
| Week 8 | **Mediation and Memorization** | This class covers the importance and benefits of thinking deeply on God’s Word and committing it to memory. It should suggest simple methods and **plans for meditation** (such as praying through the text) **and memorization**. Pick out one Word, phrase, verse, or idea from the text and think about it more deeply (or Journal) than you have read the rest of the passage. *Pray* – that the Lord would help you to desire the Word, understand it, and remember it. *Set aside time* – just like reading and studying; you won’t do it if you haven’t made time. Use your commute! *Repeat the text* – Ten times read, ten times said. *Review* *the text*– Do it again the next day, the next day, and the next. |
| Week 9 | **Prayer: Purpose, Pitfalls, & Practicalities** | Prayer glorifies God, advances gospel ministry, and is a wartime walkie-talkie. Some **pitfalls**: Being Dependent on Our Emotions, Legalism, Laziness, and Sin. **Practical**: pray through what you read in the Bible, set a time and place, make lists, pray with others, use tools like operation world, and set a structure. |
| Week 10 | **Content of Prayer (Supplication)** | Examine several prayers in the Bible to teach people what to pray for (**supplication**): The Lord’s Prayer, 2 Thessalonians 1:3-12, Colossians 1:9-14, and other prayers. |
| Week 11 | **ACTS Prayer I** | This class should teach people the Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication model. This class should focus on **Adoration**, praising God for *who* he is and what he has done. |
| Week 12 | **ACTS Prayer II** | This class focuses on **Confession** and **Thanksgiving** (Supplication was covered in week 10). |

**Additional Comments/Questions:**