



Mining God's Word

How to Study the Bible

SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course *Mining God's Word* is an introduction to the methodology of inductive study of the Bible. Inductive study consists of careful observation of the text leading to sound interpretation and appropriate application. Students will learn study strategies, principles of interpretation, and principles of application throughout the course and apply them to the book of Philippians. Although the book of Philippians will serve as the primary "training grounds," the course aims at imparting study skills that are applicable to the entire Bible. The course also aims at fostering sensitivity to literary genre and at cultivating inductive Bible study as a lifelong habit.

OBJECTIVES

This course is designed to accomplish specific objectives. A student successfully completing this course should be able:

- To magnify the worth of God in a more meaningful and personal way by treasuring him in their heart above all else. We recognize that this, the ultimate objective of the course, is impossible apart from the grace of God in the working of the Holy Spirit, who exalts the risen Lord, Jesus Christ.
- To articulate the three principles of sound interpretation presented in this course relating to historical interpretation, contextual interpretation, and literary interpretation. By learning these three principles and practicing their application, the student should be able to more accurately interpret the Scriptures.
- To employ ten strategies of inductive study in further biblical study. These strategies include creating sentence flows, recording observations, discerning the main point, listing questions, checking cross-references, paraphrasing the logic, doing word studies, comparing translations, doing thematic studies, and using secondary resources.
- To understand how to make personal application of the Bible by following ten principles of appropriate application.
- To make immediate plans for continuing personal, inductive Bible study.

REQUIRED BOOKS

- ♦ An English version of the Bible, preferably the *New American Standard Bible* (NASB) or the *English Standard Version* (ESV).
- ♦ *Mining God's Word: How to Study the Bible Student Workbook* (Minneapolis, MN: Bethlehem College & Seminary, 2016).¹
- ♦ Nigel Beynon and Andrew Sach, *Dig Deeper: Tools for Understanding God's Word* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2010). ISBN: 9781581349719.²


Note: The textbook *Dig Deeper* should be viewed as supplemental reading for the course. This course is not designed around the content or methodology of this book. Nevertheless, the book will reinforce the curriculum at key points and offers a helpful and complementary perspective on studying the Bible.

REQUIREMENTS

Students are expected to progress through Lessons 2-12 by completing the lesson pages in a sequential order. Therefore, for each lesson's homework a student should review the Introduction, Lesson Objectives, and what was covered during the class session under the heading "Study Guide." Then the student should proceed to complete the assignments listed under the heading "Homework," including the required readings. Each lesson's workload has been divided into five daily assignments for the convenience of the student.

¹ Provided free of charge by Riverstone Church.

² Available for purchase at the Riverstone Church Book Booth.

 CLASS SCHEDULE

DATE	LESSON / TOPIC	HOMEWORK
2/6/18	1. God's Word is a Treasure Mine (p. 7) Introduction to Biblical Interpretation	Complete Workbook, pp. 15-30 Read <i>Dig Deeper</i> , pp. 11-26
2/20/18	2. There Is a Meaning in This Text (p. 31) Textual Structure, Historical and Cultural Context	Complete Workbook, pp. 37-40 Read <i>Dig Deeper</i> , pp. 27-32; 39-48
3/6/18	3. Stare at the Fish (p. 41) Observation	Complete Workbook, pp. 49-54 Read <i>Dig Deeper</i> , pp. 63-68; 83-88
3/20/18	4. Query the Text (p. 55) Interpretation, Literary Context	Complete Workbook, pp. 61-64 Read <i>Dig Deeper</i> , pp. 33-38
3/27/18	5. Scripture Interprets Scripture (p. 65) Theological and Canonical Correlation	Complete Workbook, pp. 73-78 Read <i>Dig Deeper</i> , pp. 89-104; 119-126
4/10/18	6. Grasping the Flow (p. 79) Logical Interpretation	Complete Workbook, pp. 85-87 Read <i>Dig Deeper</i> , pp. 49-56
4/24/18	7. "Every Word of God Proves True" (p. 89) Word Studies and Research Tools	Complete Workbook, pp. 96-100 Read <i>Dig Deeper</i> , pp. 69-78
5/1/18	8. The Blessing of Multiple Translations (p. 101) Translations and Translation Theory	Complete Workbook, pp. 109-114 Read <i>Dig Deeper</i> , pp. 77-82
5/15/18	9. Prophecies, Parables, Proverbs... (p. 115) Genre and Biblical Themes	Complete Workbook, pp. 126-130 Read <i>Dig Deeper</i> , pp. 57-62; 105-110
5/29/18	10. "Of the Making of Many Books..." (p.131) Mistakes in Interpretation, Secondary Resources	Complete Workbook, pp. 147-154 Read <i>Dig Deeper</i> , pp. 111-118
6/12/18	11. Applying the Word (p. 155) Application	Complete Workbook, pp. 167-174 Read <i>Dig Deeper</i> , pp. 127-140
6/26/18	12. Study the Word (p. 175) Review	Complete Workbook, p. 181 Read <i>Dig Deeper</i> , pp. 141-150