

Bethel Bible Series

Orientation

Week 0

Welcome & Announcements

Sign-in and Pay (\$30 for Old Testament Set)

Prayer Requests and Opening Prayer

Introductions

Give name, time as member of this church, and what you expect to get out of the Bethel study

Lesson

What Is Bethel?

A Description and Statement of Its Objectives

Aimed at the adult mind

Provides knowledge basis of the Scriptures

Refers to Bible, not commentary

Provides an overview

Builds base for future in-depth study

Provides retainer tools (pictures & concepts)

Lecture oriented with discussion

What Bethel is not

Seminar series

= don't just come & listen

Survey course

= we won't read every chapter

In-depth analysis

= ties pieces together, not apart

Final study

= Starting point rather than ending

Principles of Interpreting the Bible

Limitation Principle

= Bible is limited on what it says, doesn't answer every question

Historical Principle

= Consider in light of historical setting

Literary Principle

= Recognize the literary style of a writing

Religious vs. Scientific Principle

= Bible is not a scientific textbook

Shelf Principle

= Put preconceived notions on a shelf when you read the Bible

Law / Gospel Principle

= Understand how they differ & how they work together

Hebrew vs. Greek Thought Principle

= Recognize the difference between Eastern & Western thought

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How to Get the Most out of your Experience

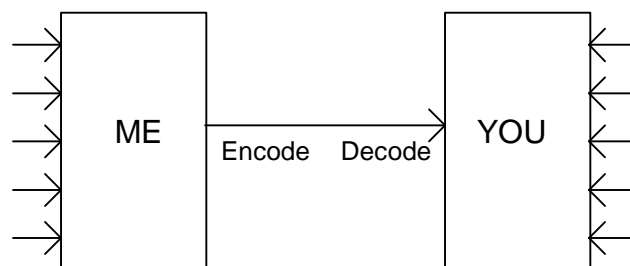
- A good study Bible (NIV is recommended)
 - Bible on tape helps if you're time-constrained
- Attend class every week
 - Class notes elaborate on & go beyond handouts
- Commit yourself to home study
 - You get out what you put in*
 - Read handouts
 - Review notes in light of handouts
 - Read assigned Bible sections
 - Complete homework
 - Become familiar with pictures & memory concepts
- Stick with the program. Persevere.
- Enjoy the Fellowship

Regular Class Agenda

- 9:10 Pick up Bible Reading slips & Handout
- 9:15 Announcements, Prayer Requests, Concerns, etc.
- 9:20 Review of studies to date
- 9:40 Current week's material
- 10:30 Distribute Bethel Handouts and Homework

Think Hebrew

- Look for the CARGO.
 - Don't focus on the VEHICLE.
- I've never killed a chicken for my dinner...* = See Teacher Notes
- Words are the Vehicle. Listen for the Cargo. = See Teacher Notes



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Cargo of the Bible

HIS STORY = God's Biography

God works His Plan through & with people = God relates to people in their period

Examples in Historical Events

The Exodus Event (Exodus, Joshua)

Vehicles: = Crossing Red Sea, Plagues, Manna & Quail,
Victories in Promised Land

Cargo: = God's Providential Care

Abraham & Lot (Genesis 13, 19)

Vehicles: = Lot leaves Abraham for Sodom (13:11-12), S & G are destroyed (19:24),
Lot moved to hills and begat Moabites & Ammonites (19:36-38)

Cargo: = Importance of Separation (Study 5) - Don't mix with world's value system.
History shapes values. God doesn't change, we do.

Examples in Peoples' Lives

Joseph (Genesis 37-50)

Vehicles: = Jealous brothers sell Joseph as slave, ends up as top Egyptian leader
Genesis 37:14, 19-24, 28, 36; 41:37-43; esp 50:20

Cargo: = God used Joseph's life to get Israelites to Egypt for time of preparation

Moses (Exodus, 2:1-3:10)

Vehicles: = Hebrew boy raised & educated in Pharaoh's home, kills Egyptian,
flees to desert (learns Hebrew life & calling), called by God from bush

Cargo: = God prepared Moses' life to lead His people

Paul (Acts & Epistles, Acts 9:1-19)

Vehicles: = Roman-educated, Jewish scholar persecutes Christians,
blinded by Christ (significant experience), sight & baptized by Ananias

Cargo: = God prepared Paul's life to take Gospel to Gentiles

Think Hebrew

Look for the CARGO.

Don't focus on the VEHICLE.

Words are the Vehicle.

Listen for the Cargo.

Distribute Notebooks & Homework

Next Week - *Creation and its Concepts*

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Hebrew vs. Greek Thought

Hebrew (Eastern)

Corporate
Concrete
Non-Systematic
Paradox
Religious Definition
Allusion to Things
Numbers used as Ideas
Reality Found in History
Time is Linear
Cargo (Meaning Behind a Story)
Eye
2 Dogs Killed a Lion
Evil == Snake
Live in Time
Passive, Likes to Contemplate
Accept World as it is
Live in Peace with Nature
Freedom of Silence
Marry first, Then love
Conceal love from world
Desire to want less
Austerity
Poverty is spiritual elevation

Greek (Western)

Individual
Abstract
Systematic
Syllogism (Logic)
Scientific Understanding
Everything is Defined
Numbers are Quantitative
Reality Found in Eternity
Time is Cyclical
Vehicle (Details of a Story)
Ear
In Union There is Strength
Evil - 20 Definitions in Dictionary
Live in Space
Aggressive, Likes to Act
Try to Change the World
Try to Impose on Nature
Freedom of Speech
Love first, Then marry
Show love to the world
Desire to want more
Gracious living
Poverty is degradation

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Teacher Notes

THINK HEBREW

I've never killed a chicken for my dinner...

Example from Jury Duty right before I taught this class years ago

Capital Murder trial

Prospective jurors were questioned on beliefs of Capital Punishment

India-born man said he couldn't sentence anyone to death

When questioned further, he replied:

"I've never killed a chicken for my dinner,

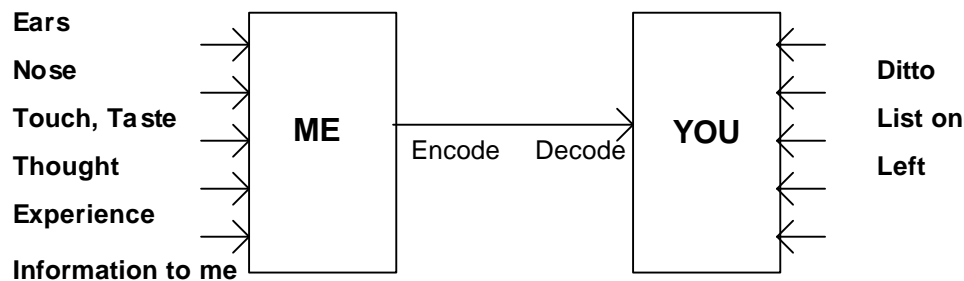
I don't think I could sentence a man to death."

Others couldn't understand what a chicken had to do with a murder trial

Very descriptive

Cargo vs Vehicle

Words are the Vehicle. Listen for the Cargo.



Words spoken by me are in code based on my experiences and influences

Words you receive are interpreted based on your experiences & influences

Words are the literary forms

May be difficult to decipher

Try to think with your eyes