

Bethel Bible Series

Orientation

Week 0

When interpreting the Bible, don't try to reinterpret the clear based on the obscure. PK

Prayer Requests and Opening Prayer = Prayer Request sheet

Introductions

Name

Years at Gloria Dei

Bible Knowledge Self-Rating (1 – new to Bible, 2 – beginner, 3 – average, 4 – experienced, 5 – expert)

Why Bethel? = What do you expect to get out of this class?

Logistics

Weekly Class Agenda - Will start on time

| | | | |
|------|-------|------|--|
| 7:45 | 9:15 | 6:45 | Pre-Class Q & A |
| 7:50 | 9:20 | 6:50 | Sign-in, Pick up Handout and Bible Reading Slips |
| 8:00 | 9:30 | 7:00 | Prayer Requests and Opening Prayer |
| 8:05 | 9:35 | 7:05 | Past Lesson Review and Homework Review |
| | | | Research Project Presentation (<i>InDepth Bethel only</i>) |
| | | | New Lesson |
| 9:00 | 10:30 | 9:30 | Distribute Bethel Materials and Homework |

During the Week - *You get out more than you put in* = 2 to 4 hours per lesson (*InDepth*)

Read Bethel Materials

Review class notes and handouts in light of the Bethel materials

Read assigned Bible portions - The bulk of the homework time

Will end up reading entire Bible through this course (*InDepth Bethel only*)

Use a good study Bible with notes - Concordia Self-Study or NIV Study Bible

Audio Bible will help if you are time-constrained

Complete homework, Memorize picture concepts and memory concepts

Make note of any questions

Research Projects - *InDepth Bethel only*

The person who gets the most out of any class is the instructor

Each week a question will be assigned to someone to research

That person will give a 5-minute presentation of their findings at the next class

Everyone in class will take turns = We'll start in a couple of weeks

Course Outline and Schedule = See attachment (double-side Sunday and Monday)

Course material fees: \$ 35 for Sundays (First Year), \$ 75 for Mondays (Two Years)

Weekly email will include class handout, homework, class info and prayer requests

Class handouts and recordings will be posted at www.biblestoriesforadults.com/Bethel

For Certificate of Completion: 100% of *InDepth* classes, 75% of Standard classes

If you miss a class, work through handout while listening to recording

Send me an email when you complete in order to get credit for the class

Persevere - You will be glad you did

Comments from past Bethel Students = Hand out 6-page Comment Packet

Commitment Forms = Hand out, Complete and turn in after class

Bethel Bible Series

Orientation

Page 2

True North

Stand up and close your eyes = Point to True North, Open eyes

Who is correct?

Is there really a true north?

1 degree error = 1000 mile error at Moscow

What Is Bethel?

Aimed at the adult mind

Hebrews 5:11-6:3 = *Let us leave the elementary teachings and go on to maturity*

= God has given us the ability to understand meaty truths that he has revealed

Provides knowledge basis of the Scriptures

Matthew 22:29 = Jesus: *You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures*

= Most Christians have an elementary school level knowledge of the Bible

Refers to Bible, not commentary

2 Timothy 3:16-17 = *All Scripture is God-breathed ... so that man may be thoroughly equipped*

= *Sola Scriptura*, Use commentaries to help understand, but Scripture takes precedence

Provides an overview = OT & NT can appear to conflict unless you see the whole picture

Ephesians 3:2-6 = *Through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel*

= See how each part relates to the whole and how the whole relates to each part

Builds base for future in-depth study

Philippians 3:12-16 = *Not that I have already obtained all this, but I press on*

= The more you learn, the more you realize you don't know and want to learn more

Provides retainer tools (pictures and concepts)

Matthew 13:34 = *Jesus spoke all these things to the crowd in parables*

= Multiple learning styles are supported through visual, verbal and memory-based techniques

Lecture oriented with discussion

Acts 17:11 = *They examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true*

= Your involvement and interaction will help you learn more than just sitting back and listening

Requires discipline

Hebrews 12:11 = *No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but ... produces a harvest*

= A disciplined sacrifice will lead to significant growth and gains

What Bethel is not

Seminar series = Don't just come and listen

Survey course = We won't read or study every chapter or story

In-depth analysis = Ties pieces together, not apart

Final study = Starting point rather than ending

Bethel Video = Play first 7.5 minutes only

Bethel Bible Series

Orientation

Page 3

Principles of Interpreting the Bible

- Limitation Principle = Written to give us what we need for faith
Bible is limited on what it says, doesn't answer every question (John 20:30-31)
- Religious vs. Scientific Principle = Don't make the Bible say things where it is quiet
Bible is not a scientific textbook
- Historical Principle = Put yourself into the culture of the time, Don't try to make them fit with today
Consider in light of historical setting
- Literary Principle = Not everything is literal narrative, Will discuss further in Study 2
Recognize the literary style of a writing
- Shelf Principle = Many things we think we know were learned from secondary sources
Put preconceived notions on a shelf when you read the Bible = Let Spirit speak freshly
- Law / Gospel Principle = God didn't change His mind, Both together make up God's plan
Understand how they differ and how they work together
- Hebrew vs. Greek Thought Principle = Refer to pages 5 and 6
Recognize the difference between Eastern and Western thought

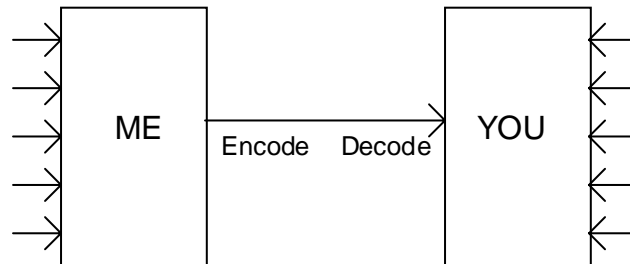
Skit - *It Sounds Greek to Me*

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



Bethel Bible Series

Orientation

Page 4

Cargo of the Bible

HIS STORY = God's Biography

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

Examples in Historical Events

The Exodus Event (Exodus, Joshua)

Vehicles: = Plagues, Crossing Red Sea, Manna and Quail during 40 years in desert,
Miraculous Victories in Promised Land

Cargo: = God's Providential Care

Abraham and Lot (Genesis 13, 19)

Vehicles: = Lot chose attractive land near Sodom (13:11-12), S & G destroyed (19:24),
Lot moved to hills and begat Moabites and 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 sold Joseph as slave, ended 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: = 40 years in Pharaoh's home to learn to lead a nation, killed Egyptian,
40 yrs in desert learning to lead God's people, called by God from bush

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

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

Vehicles: = Roman-educated, Jewish scholar persecuted 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.

Closing Prayer

Distribute Homework

Next Week - *Creation and its Concepts*

Bethel Bible Series

Orientation

Page 5

Hebrew vs. Greek Thought

Hebrew (Eastern)

Corporate
Concrete
All 5 Senses
Non-Systematic
Paradox
Religious Definition
Function
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
Mind
Systematic
Logic
Scientific Understanding
Appearance
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

Bethel Bible Series

Orientation

Page 6

Teacher Notes

THINK HEBREW

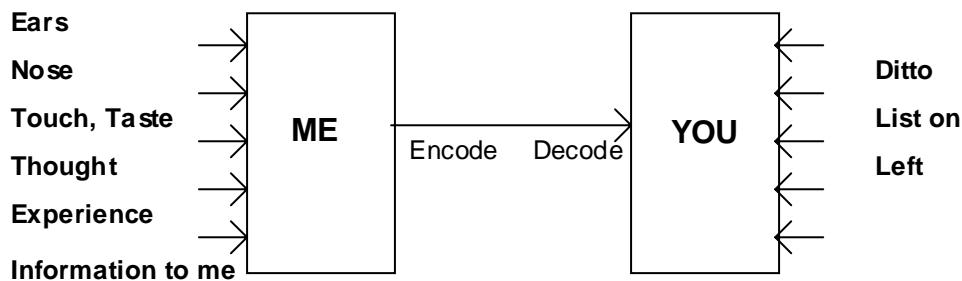
I've never killed a chicken for my dinner...

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 and influences

Words are the literary forms
May be difficult to decipher

Try to think with your eyes