



BE101- Bible Study Methods

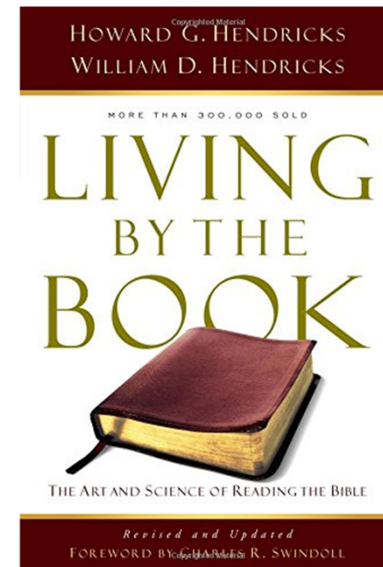
SESSION 1: INTRODUCTION TO THE CLASS, BIBLE BASICS

Introduction to the Class

- Course objectives
 - Provide you with a greater understanding of Bible basics
 - Equip you to understand the Bible on your own
 - Apply God's Word to bring about life change
 - Develop a greater love for God and His Word (Ps 119:103 "How sweet your word is to my taste – sweeter than honey in my mouth")
- 9 Weeks
 - Weeks 1-2 are an overview of the Bible
 - Weeks 3-7 describe the inductive method for studying the Bible
 - Week 8 will be a practical exercise studying a passage
 - Week 9 is select topics, course summary, next steps

Introduction to the Class (cont.)

- Zoom protocol
- Slides and Recording will be available
- Audit vs Taking for Credit
- Homework/assignments
- Office Hours
- Living by the Book by Howard and William Hendricks



Who am I?



Why Study the Bible?

- God wrote us a book!
- 2 Timothy 3:16-17 “All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”
 - Teaching: tells us about God and ourselves
 - Rebuking/Correcting: lets us know when we are off track
 - Training in Righteousness: shows us how we should behave/act
- Essential for Growth/Spiritual Maturity
 - 1 Peter 2:2 – “Like newborn infants, desire the pure milk of the word, so that you may grow up into your salvation”
- But why should I study it on my own?
 - Guards against false teaching
 - More active involvement
 - More personal

“Study”

- Different approaches to reading God’s Word- all important, not mutually exclusive
 - Study- Focused more on understanding on an intellectual level
 - What does the text say and what does it mean?
 - Depth and Breadth
 - Necessary, but not wholly sufficient
 - Devotional- Focused more on understanding on a heart level
 - How does this affect me?
 - How does this make me feel?
 - Must be correctly informed by study
 - The Bible at Mission Church
 - Mission Academy, Small Groups (What does this say about God, us?), Sermon, Small Groups (Application), Scripture Meditation, Benediction, Worship, etc.

Why do we need a class?

- Studying the Bible is often difficult
 - Cultural/ historical backgrounds
 - Literary forms (often figurative)
 - Our own limitations (finite being trying to understand an infinite God).
- ...but not impossible
 - Tools and methods are helpful
 - Life-long process

Bible Organization

- The Bible
 - 66 books
 - Broken up into Old Testament (OT) and New Testament (NT)
 - Not necessarily ordered chronologically
- Old Testament (OT)
 - 39 total books (Genesis through Malachi)
 - Pentateuch (The Law) – Genesis through Deuteronomy
 - Narrative – Joshua through Esther
 - Poetry/Wisdom Literature – Job through Song of Solomon
 - Major Prophets (Isaiah through Daniel)
 - Minor Prophets (Hosea through Malachi)

Organization (cont.)

- New Testament (NT)
 - 29 books (Matthew through Revelation)
 - Gospels (Matthew through John)
 - History (Acts)
 - Epistles (Romans through Jude)
 - Pauline (Romans through Philemon)
 - Other Letters (Hebrews through Jude)
 - Prophecy (Revelation)

Biblical Authorship

- Dual Authorship
 - Inspired by God (lit. “God-breathed”): 2Ti 3:16 “All scripture is *inspired by God* and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness,”
 - Written by men:
 - Ephesians 1:1- “Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by God’s will: To the faithful saints in Christ Jesus at Ephesus.”
 - 2 Peter 1:21b – “men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”
 - Each author has a personal style
- Intended audience
 - Immediate audience
 - Broader audience
- Bible was written:
 - By 40 different authors
 - Over a period of 1,500 years
 - Yet, the Bible is unified in its message

Original Languages

- Bible originally written in 3 languages – Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek
- Hebrew
 - Traditional language of the Jewish people
 - Most of the Old Testament written in Hebrew
- Aramaic
 - Used by the Babylonian Empire
 - Similar to Hebrew
 - Adopted by the Jews in captivity
 - Parts of Daniel and Ezra written in Aramaic
- Greek
 - Official language of the Greek Empire and dominant language in the Roman Empire
 - Classical Greek -> Koine Greek -> Modern Greek
 - New Testament written in Greek (Koine)

Modern Translations

- Many different options (NKJ, NASB, NIV, CSB, ESV, NLT...)
- Word for word (literal) vs thought for thought (meaning)
- Continuum (NASB, ESV, NKJ, CSB, NIV, NLT, MSG)
- Why do translators have to choose?
 - Language Differences: Semantic Range of Words

Greek:

Agape	Phileo	Eros
Love		

English:

De	
But	And

Modern Translations (cont.)

- Why do translators have to choose (cont.)
 - Language Differences: Grammatical Construction
 - Word order
 - Verb tenses
- Helpful to check other translations
- What are you reading for?
 - Study: word-for-word probably more helpful
 - Devotional: thought-for-thought probably more helpful

Questions?

Final Things

- Homework: Send me an email answering the following:
 - If you plan to take the class “for credit”
 - A brief description (paragraph) of your background in Bible Study
 - How long have you been a Christian?
 - Have you had any formal training in how to study the Bible?
 - How would you describe your overall familiarity with the Bible?
 - What are you hoping to get out of this class?
 - Are there any specific topics you want this class to cover?
- Next Class:
 - Week 1 Leftovers
 - Characteristics of the Bible (inerrancy, authority, sufficiency, clarity)
 - Introduction to the Inductive Method.