

Select New Testament Introduction to the New Testament
Small Group syllabus
For certificate level use of the course

Course Description

In this course students will be introduced to key themes and issues in the study of the New Testament, and learn basic skills to equip them to be competent and creative interpreters of New Testament texts. The *Select Introduction to the New Testament* DVD presents a model for interpreting Scripture that emphasizes the importance of reading New Testament texts in their cultural and literary contexts with a view to relating them to contemporary cultural and ministry contexts. The course will focus on the practice of interpreting New Testament texts. Students will use the models and insights from presentations on the Select DVD to explore questions raised by the study of specific New Testament texts and then discuss how these texts continue shape our faith and practice in today's world.

Purpose and Goals of the Course

The purpose of this course is to provide an introduction to the study of the New Testament for those living out their baptismal vocation. The course is designed to provide a variety of strategies and tools for understanding the message of New Testament texts in their ancient social and religious contexts with a view to relating them to contemporary ministry contexts. The course employs learning activities that include lectures, readings, study guides, and online discussion to accomplish the following learning goals:

- Obtain a basic grasp of the content and message of the Gospels, Pauline epistles, Acts and Revelation.
- To become aware of the cultural and theological assumptions you bring to the interpretation of New Testament texts and learn to ask questions of the text that allow you to hear the text anew.
- To become familiar with basic strategies for interpreting New Testament texts and practice using them by interpreting specific passages discussing your interpretive work online.
- To better understand how New Testament texts were responding to specific political, social and religious issues and circumstances in order to provide fresh readings of New Testament texts that speak to contemporary cultural contexts.

Expectations

- *Each* week read the assigned readings in both the New Testament and textbook.
- Meet to watch the lecture and participate in the discussion questions.
- Do the assignment from the study guide.
- After completing the assignment, meet in person or by conference call, or online to respond to the discussion questions in the study guide.
- This class rhythm can be accomplished over 1 or 2 weeks.
- Write a final paper at the end of class.

Textbooks

The Harper Collins Study Bible

Powell, Mark Allan, *Introducing the New Testament: A Historical, Literary, and Theological Survey*. Baker Academics 2018 edition.

Sessions and Readings

Session 1: Interpreting the New Testament in its Context

Powell, *Introducing the New Testament*, chapters 1-3

Session 2: The Gospel of Mark

Gospel of Mark

Powell, *Introducing the New Testament*, chapters 4, 5, 7

Session 3: The Gospel of Matthew

Gospel of Matthew

Powell, *Introducing the New Testament*, chapter 6

Session 4: The Gospel of Luke

Gospel of Luke

Powell, *Introducing the New Testament*, chapter 8

Session 5: The Gospel of John

Gospel of John

Powell, *Introducing the New Testament*, chapter 9

Session 6: The Acts of the Apostles

Acts of the Apostles

Powell, *Introducing the New Testament*, chapter 10

Session 7: Letters of Paul I: Introduction, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, Galatians

1 & 2 Thessalonians, Galatians

Powell, *Introducing the New Testament*, chapters 11, 12, 16, 20, 21

Session 8: Letters of Paul II: 1 & 2 Corinthians, Romans

1 & 2 Corinthians, Romans

Powell, *Introducing the New Testament*, chapters 13-15

Assignment 9: Letters of Paul III: Philippians, Philemon, Deutero-Pauline & Pastoral Epistles

Philippians, Philemon, Ephesians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus

Powell, *Introducing the New Testament*, chapters 17, 18, 19, 22, 23

Session 10: Revelation

Revelation

Powell, *Introducing the New Testament*, chapter 30