

# *Biblical Communication*

Course Facilitator: Keith E. Johnson, Ph.D.

## **Course Description**

Communicating biblical truth requires a profound understanding of God's Word and an ability to relate God's Word to your audience so they may be transformed by the Author. Building upon the *Biblical Interpretation* class, experienced communicators will help you become a worshipping communicator and develop audience-sensitive skills that guarantee your message finds relevant, true-to-life application. Through lecture and workshops this course will equip you lead the emerging generations to conviction and repentance of their sin and to growing belief and adoration of Christ. Prerequisite: *Biblical Interpretation* (2 IBS credits - Bible)

## **Course Values**

- Developing biblical communicators who are captivated by Christ.
- Developing biblical messages that are:
  - Faithful to the whole story of the Bible
  - Obvious from the passage
  - Related to the sin condition in the heart of the hearer
  - Connected to Christ's redemption
  - Engaging the heart and mind of emerging generations
- Developing engaging messages that are:
  - Real from our lives
  - Exploring of the Word
  - Multiple in forms and images
  - Affective for minds and hearts
  - Portraying a captivating Christ

## Course Objectives

1. Richly experience the grace and truth of the gospel this summer as you encounter Christ in the Scriptures.
2. Learn a process that can be used to develop a Christ-centered message or small group lesson from any passage in the Bible.
3. Understand how to relate the theological meaning of a passage to a contemporary audience.
4. Learn how to help others hear the music of the gospel by surfacing a “fallen condition” and pointing to the “redemptive solution” in a passage.
5. Grow in your audience analysis skills and learn how to connect on a heart-level with those to whom you communicate.
6. Develop your audience delivery skills by practicing and receiving feedback from a coach and fellow students.
7. Develop a Christ-centered small group lesson and large group message and receive feedback from a coach.
8. Grow in your confidence as a Christ-centered communicator.
9. Embrace and embody the values of Christ-centered communication in your ministry.

## Required Texts

- Chapell, Bryan. *Christ-centered Preaching*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Book House, 2005.
- Llyod-Jones, Sally. *The Jesus Storybook Bible: Every Story Whispers His Name*. Grand Rapids: ZonderKids, 2007.
- The Ultimate Road Trip*. 3d ed. Orlando: Cru Press, 2008. [Note: *The new 3d edition contains info not in previous versions. You will need the 3d edition for this class.*]

## Recommended Texts

- Greidanus, Sidney. *The Ancient Text and the Modern Preacher*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1988.
- Greidanus, Sidney. *Preaching Christ from the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1999.
- Goldsworthy, Graeme. *Preaching the Whole Bible as Christian Scripture*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2000.
- Johnston, Graham. *Preaching to a Postmodern World*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Book House, 2001.
- Piper, John. *The Supremacy of God in Preaching*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Book House, 1990.
- Robinson, Haddon. *Biblical Preaching: The Development and Delivery of Expository Messages*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Book House, 1980.
- Stott, John. *Between Two Worlds: The Art of Preaching in the Twentieth Century*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1982.
- The Fellowship Group Handbook*. Redeemer Presbyterian Church, New York City.

## Course Requirements

1. **Participation:** You are expected to actively apply the content and participate in drills in the workshop portion of each class. (10 points)
2. **Reading:** You are expected to read thoughtfully the assigned texts. You will turn in a reading report indicating your completion of the readings. (10 points)
3. **Worksheets:** You will complete four worksheets that will allow you to develop key components of your message. (20 points). NOTE: These worksheets must be typed. Electronic copies are available on-line at <http://ibs.campuscrusadeforchrist.com/ibs/Resources/IBSCourses/bic.html>
4. **Small Group Lesson:** You will compose a small group lesson on your passage. (20 points)
5. **Communication Project:** You will compose a complete message on a biblical passage. The message will be designed for a large group teaching environment. You will turn in a written component of this message. (20 points)
6. **Delivery of message:** You will have an opportunity to deliver your message in order to receive feedback on your communication. (20 points)

## Course Assignments

**NOTE:** Over the weekend between classes, there are two assignments (see below). Please complete them prior to coming to class on Monday:

*Jesus Storybook Bible*, pp. 12-17

Tim Keller's lecture, "Preaching the Gospel to Believers and Unbelievers" (posted on IBS website)

### Monday, July 5

Lecture: *Introduction to Biblical Communication*

Assignments:

Read Chapell, ch. 2, 10

Read *Jesus Storybook Bible*, "The Young Hero and the Horrible Giant"

### Tuesday, July 6

Lecture: *Developing Redemptive Messages*

Assignments:

Read Chapell, ch. 11

Read *Ultimate Road Trip*, ch 5 (pp. 52-57) and ch. 8 [ch 7, in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>d</sup> editions]

Read *Jesus Storybook Bible*, "The Present"

Worksheet #1: Audience Analysis (due: Wednesday, July 7)

### Wednesday, July 7

Lecture: *Leading others to Encounter Christ through Small Groups*

Assignments:

Read *Jesus Storybook Bible*, "The Girl Nobody Wanted"

Compose a Small Group Lesson for your passage (due: Thursday, July 8)

**Thursday, July 8**

Lecture: *Preparing a Biblical Message*

Assignments:

Read Chapell, ch. 6 (pp. 129-55 only)

Read *Jesus Storybook Bible*, “Washed with Tears”

Worksheet #2: Brainstorm MBI and Outline (due: Friday, July 9)

**Friday, July 9**

Lecture: *Structuring Your Message*

Assignments:

Read Chapell, ch. 9

Read *Jesus Storybook Bible*, “The Terrible Lie”

Worksheet #3: Message Objectives and Outline (due: Monday, July 13)

Prep for speaking drill: *For Monday, prepare a 90 second testimony describing/illustrating how you have experienced a fallen condition in your passage*

**Monday, July 13**

Lecture: *Launching and Closing*

Assignments:

Read Chapell, ch. 7

Read *Jesus Storybook Bible*, “A Little Servant Girl and the Proud General”

Worksheet #4: Launching/Closing and Illustrating (due: Tuesday, July 14)

Prep for speaking drill: *For Tuesday, prepare the introduction to your talk to present in three minutes or less.*

**Tuesday, July 14**

Lecture: *Engaging Your Audience’s Heart*

Assignments:

Read Chapell, ch. 8

Read *Jesus Storybook Bible*, “The Captain of the Storm”

Prep for speaking drill: *For Wednesday, prepare an illustration (no more than 2 minutes long) to present. This illustration should NOT be from your introduction.*

**Wednesday, July 15**

Lecture: *Christ-centered Ministry*

Assignments:

Finish your message

Complete written “Final Communication Project”

**Thursday & Friday, July 16-17**

Deliver your message.

Observe and evaluate messages.

## Final Communication Project

The Final Communication Project has two sections. The *first section* is common to each delivery method. In the *second section* you will design a message that effectively and accurately delivers the meaning of the text to the heart and mind of your audience. All of your work should reflect the values expressed by FORCE with a God-centered orientation.

This project will be a typed paper (12 point font) with two clearly marked sections, **Section 1** and **Section 2**. Both sections should begin at the top of a page. In the first section you will type (in bold) the four section headings listed below in section 1, followed by your answers. In the second section you will type (in bold) everything that appears in bold in the second section, followed by your answers.

### SECTION 1: MESSAGE BACKGROUND

1. **List your Biblical Text**
2. **Textual Outline / ABI** (only main points and verse references)
3. **Theological Big Idea**
4. **Audience Analysis:**
  - Identify your audience: one paragraph including age group, basic cultural background, spiritual background and maturity, communication setting, etc.
  - What is the fallen condition your audience shares with the passage?
  - How is Christ portrayed in a way that answers that fallen condition?
  - How do I share in the fallen condition of the passage?
  - What longings of the heart does the passage answer?
  - What false beliefs of my audience does this passage correct?

## SECTION 2: LARGE GROUP MESSAGE

**1. Launch the Message (Connect the message to where they live)**— Write out your launch word for word in one page (or less). It should include the following elements:

- An attention-getting opening that orients your audience to the fallen condition and helps them personally identify it in their own lives.
- A statement of the fallen condition (in **bold** print).
- A question that the MBI answers (in **bold** print).
- A transitional statement(s) that moves the message from the Launch Portion to the Explore section.

There are two ways you can structure the body of your message. You might tell the whole story and then apply it (left column) or you might tell part of the story, make application, tell another part of the story, and make application (right column). Either way is fine.

**2. Explore the Passage (Lead them to understand the Word)** — Write out in 1 to 1 ½ pages how you plan to retell the story of the passage in a clear, compelling way that permits the hearers to experience the drama of the plot and understand the author's intended meaning. Also, be sure to fold important contextual matters or background information *necessary* for a hearer to understand the narrative into the retelling rather than making them separately. Finally, be sure to include a transitional statement that moves the message from the Explore section to the Apply portion.

**3. Apply the Passage (Lead them to a heart-level response to Christ)** — In Outline form using complete sentences for each point(s), draw out the implication(s) and application(s) of your TBI. Specifically, show how the Fallen Condition surfaced earlier is addressed by the redemptive solution(s) of this passage. Be sure to include any essential details from stories or illustrations you plan to use. (1 page)

**2a. Explore the Passage:** Tell *part* of the story following the instructions in the left column—write out each explore portion using complete sentences.

**3a. Apply the Passage:** Draw out the implication of this particular part of the story showing how the Fallen Condition surfaced earlier is addressed by the redemptive solution(s) of this passage. Be sure to include any essential details from stories or illustrations you plan to use. You can put each apply section into outline form, but be sure to use a complete sentence for each point of application.

**2b. Explore the Passage:** Tell the next *part* of the story.

**3b. Apply the Passage:** Draw out the implication of this particular part of the story showing how the Fallen Condition surfaced earlier is addressed by the redemptive solution(s) of this passage. Be sure to include any essential details from stories or illustrations you plan to use.

**2c. Explore the Passage:** Tell the final *part* of the story.

**3c. Apply the Passage:** Draw out the implication of this particular part of the story showing how the Fallen Condition surfaced earlier is addressed by the redemptive solution(s) of this passage. Be sure to include any essential details from stories or illustrations you plan to use.

**4. Close (Bring the message to a logical and satisfactory conclusion)** — Your close should be written out word-for-word out in no more than ½ page the following . . .

- A statement of your MBI (in **bold** print)
- A summary of how the MBI answers the fallen condition.
- A restatement of your opening introduction or illustration that appropriately ties the fallen condition and MBI together. (You might tell a story that encapsulates the theme you have been developing.).

**Reading Report**  
 (To be submitted to your coach on Friday, July 17)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Coach \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Date Due</b>	<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Assigned Pages</b>	<b># Pages Completed</b>
Monday, July 5	Listen to Keller lecture entitled "Preaching the Gospel" <i>Jesus Storybook Bible</i> , 12-17	Count as 35pp	
Tuesday, July 6	Chapell, Ch. 2, 10 <i>Jesus Storybook Bible</i> , "The Young Hero and the Horrible Giant"	50	
Wednesday, July 7	Chapell, Ch. 11 <i>Ultimate Road Trip</i> , Ch. 5, Ch. 8 <i>Jesus Storybook Bible</i> , "The Present"	60	
Thursday, July 8	<i>Jesus Storybook Bible</i> , "The Girl Nobody Wanted"	5	
Friday, July 9	Chapell, Ch. 6 (pp. 129-55 only) <i>Jesus Storybook Bible</i> , "Washed with Tears"	35	
Monday, July 12	Chapell, Ch. 9 <i>Jesus Storybook Bible</i> , "The Terrible Lie"	35	
Tuesday, July 13	Chapell, Ch. 7 <i>Jesus Storybook Bible</i> , "A Little Servant Girl and the Proud General"	39	
Wednesday, July 14	Chapell, Ch. 8 <i>Jesus Storybook Bible</i> , "The Captain of the Storm"	28	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>287</b>	