

RENOVARÉ Canada

A Vision for Spiritual Formation in Canada

CERTIFICATE IN SPIRITUAL FORMATION AND LEADERSHIP

SPIRITUALITY AND SCRIPTURE The Bible and Spiritual Formation



Instructor: Richard Hovey (MA, MATH)
Fall 2017

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Workshop: October 26-29, 2017

Students are asked to arrive at Queen's House (Saskatoon, SK) on Thursday evening for a time of introductions, settling in and an opening devotion time together. Instruction will start on the Friday morning at 9:00am. We will end our time together with lunch on Sunday.

Course Description

Scripture is not simply a history book to be studied, but a book which deals with people sought by God for the purpose of relationship. This course looks at how to experience Scripture as more than a historical account of God's work in history, but also as a source and guide for God's past and present work of establishing a people for Himself.

Objectives

- To enable the student to read scripture with both an eye to detail for proper interpretation as well as an eye to the transformative account which scripture gives of the God who desires a people for Himself.
- To encourage students in their reading of Scripture to identify and understand the grand story (metanarrative) within the text.
- To enrich the students' own personal ability to approach the Scriptures in a way that will draw them closer to the God of Scripture.

Course Texts (for full bibliography info see last page)

Hearing God's Words: Exploring Biblical Spirituality by Peter Adam

Life with God: reading the Bible for spiritual transformation by Richard Foster

Understanding Scripture: An Overview of the Bible's Origin, Reliability, and Meaning edited by Wayne Grudem, C. John Collins and Thomas R. Schreiner

Living Jesus: Learning the Heart of the Gospel by Luke Timothy Johnson

Eat this Book: a conversation in the art of spiritual reading by Eugene Peterson

Reading the Bible for the Love of God by Alan Reynolds

Assignments

Pre-course

1. In a short paper, outline your personal engagement with Scripture reading; use the essays in Part 2 of *Understanding Scripture* as your guide. (750 words).
2. Write a reflective essay on the reading of Scripture for spiritual benefit, engaging with Peterson's *Eat This Book* and Reynolds *Reading the Bible for the Love of God*. You may incorporate other course readings or works you have read that would be of benefit in writing this essay. (1000 words).

Post-course

3. In Adam's *Hearing God's Words*, there is a chapter in which he discusses Calvin's theology of revelation. Other than Calvin, pick an influential person in church history and write a research paper which outlines their theology of the revelation of God through the Scriptures. (1500 words).
4. Pick a passage of Scripture on which to write a paper using the thoughts you've gleaned from this course. (1500 words).

Course Outline

- Introductions & Opening Devotional (Thursday Evening)
- Approaching the Scriptures (Friday Morning)
- Apprehending Scripture (Friday Afternoon)
- Personal Retreat/Quiet Time (Friday Evening)
- Associating with Scripture (Saturday Morning)
- Personal Time (Saturday Afternoon)
- Applying Scripture (Saturday Evening)
- Closing Session & Chapel (Sunday Morning)

Devotional Readings/Small Group Involvement

Another element of the *Certificate in Spiritual Formation* is having an active devotional life which finds expression in community. Students will be encouraged to work through "The Apprentice Series" by James Bryan Smith. There are three books in this series: *The Good and Beautiful God*, *The Good and Beautiful Life*, and *The Good and Beautiful Community*. Over the duration of the Certificate in Spiritual Formation Year One students are encouraged to work through all three of these books, meeting regularly with a small group via Zoom to discuss and encourage one another in the material.

- *The Good and Beautiful God* – October/November/December
- *The Good and Beautiful Life* – January/February/March
- *The Good and Beautiful Community* – April/May/June

Each participant will also receive "A Year with God: living the spiritual disciplines" devotional guide edited by Richard Foster and Julia Roller.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Course Texts

Adam, Peter. *Hearing God's Words: Exploring Biblical Spirituality*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2004.

Foster, Richard. *Life with God: reading the Bible for spiritual transformation*. New York, NY: HarperOne, 2008.

Grudem, Wayne and C. John Collins and Thomas R. Schreiner, eds. *Understanding Scripture: An Overview of the Bible's Origin, Reliability, and Meaning*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2012.

Johnson, Luke Timothy. *Living Jesus: Learning the Heart of the Gospel*. New York, NY: HarperOne, 1999.

Peterson, Eugene. *Eat this Book: a conversation in the art of spiritual reading*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2006.

Reynolds, Alan. *Reading the Bible for the Love of God*. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, 2003.

Additional Resources

Bloesch, Donald G. *Holy Scripture: revelation, inspiration, & interpretation*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 1994.

Boa, Kenneth. *Conformed to His Image: biblical and practical approaches to spiritual formation*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2001.

Boadt, Laurence. *Reading the Old Testament: An Introduction*. Second Edition. New York, NY: Paulist Press, 2012.

Boda, Mark J. "Old Testament Foundations of Christian Spirituality." In *Dictionary of Christian Spirituality*. Edited by Glen G. Scorgie. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011.

Brown, Jeannine K. "New Testament Foundations of Christian Spirituality." In *Dictionary of Christian Spirituality*. Edited by Glen G. Scorgie. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011.

Nowell, Irene. "Scripture." In *The New Dictionary of Catholic Spirituality*. Edited by Michael Downey. Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 1993.

Perkins, Pheme. *Reading the New Testament: An Introduction*. Third Edition. New York, NY: Paulist Press, 2012.

Treier, Daniel J. *Introducing Theological Interpretation of Scripture: Recovering a Christian Practice*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2008.

Waltke, Bruce K. *The Dance between God and Humanity: Reading the Bible Today as the People of God*. Grand Rapids, MI: W. B. Eerdmans Publishing, 2013.

