



Interpreting Scripture: How to Read, Understand, and Worship through the Word

Chad Porter | City Seminary

Purpose

Interpreting Scripture is a 6-week course meant to equip and inspire you to read the Bible well. Too often we read Scripture in bits and pieces, isolating it from Christ and its context. This invariably leads to misunderstanding and, therefore, misapplication of the text to our lives. In this class you will learn — and practice — basic methods of interpretation. The class format will be a combination of instruction, dialog, and group practice. Together we will increase our understanding and practical ability to read God's word for all its worth.

Course Resources

- [*How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth*](#), Gordon Fee & Douglas Stuart
- [*Journeys with Jesus: Every Path in the Bible Leads Us to Christ*](#), Dennis Johnson

Course Overview

Feb 3: *Getting to Know the Bible*

- Reading: Fee, chapter 1
- Why read?
- Is there a meaning?
- Is there a method?
- Application:

Feb 10: *Historical Narrative*

- Reading: Fee, chapter 5
- Elements of narrative
- Application:

Feb 17: *Psalms & Wisdom*

- Reading: Fee, chapters 11 & 12
- Elements of poetry & wisdom literature
- Application:

Feb 24: *Prophets*

- Reading: Fee, chapter 10
- Elements of prophetic books
- Application:

March 2: *Gospels*

- Reading: Fee, chapter 7
- Elements of the gospels
- Application:

March 9: *Epistles*

- Reading: Fee, chapters 3 & 4
- Elements of epistles
- Application:

Elder Development Requirements

If taking this class as part of the Elder Development Program at City Life Church, you must:

- Read the following article:
- Write an exegetical reflection on a passage of Scripture of your choice. Your paper must meet the following requirements:
 - Two page (double spaced) minimum
 - Clearly state the main thesis of the passage and then provide support for your conclusion.
 - Substantially consist of your *own* exegetical observations (i.e., not simply a re-statement of what various commentaries say). Remember, do your own work before consulting any outside commentaries!
 - Respond to instructor's comments & engagement after you've turned in your assignment.
 - Your *choice of text* is **due by Feb 17** (3rd week of class).
 - Your *exegetical reflection* is **due by March 9** (last week of class)

Please feel free to contact chad@austincitylife.org with any thoughts, questions, or suggestions related to this course.