

FA21

LEARNING INTENSIVE

NOV 5-6

WILLINGDON CHURCH

How do the Scriptures, the Spirit, and the interpretive community work **together** to discern the message and meaning of the Bible? How do we read the text carefully so that we can live it out with wisdom and faithfulness? In this introductory course, learners will develop a greater understanding and appreciation of the historical, literary, theological, and confessional value of both the Old and New Testaments, with special attention given to the Bible's interpretation and application in the Mennonite Brethren tradition.

COURSE OUTCOMES

This course will help learners:

- Identify and describe the main historical, literary and theological elements of the Old and New Testaments.
- Effectively interpret each of the various sections of the Bible.
- Articulate and critique various contemporary hermeneutical methods, and apply such methods and tools.
- Describe the history and relevance of the original manuscripts of the Bible.
- Describe how Mennonite Brethren interpretations of scripture are applied in the current Canadian context.



TEXTS & ASSIGNMENTS

- "Sola Scriptura and the Mennonite Brethren" by Abe Dueck, Bruce Guenther, and Doug Heidebrecht in *Renewing Identity and Mission*.
- *The Bible Unwrapped* by Meghan Good.
- "Interpreting Scripture Today" by Doug Heidebrecht and Mark Wessner in *Direction 49*.
- "People of the Word," in *Family Matters*, by Lynn Jost.
- Old and New Testaments (read Exodus, Proverbs, Habakkuk, Mark, and Revelation).

The course assignments will help you:

- Interpret biblical passages using the Interpreting Scripture method.
- Sharpen your understanding of biblical interpretation in discussion groups.
- Practice biblical interpretation in your ministry context.

COURSE DURATION & ASSIGNMENTS

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DISCUSSION & CREDIT ASSIGNMENTS
NOV 5 - DEC 18



Mark Wessner, Ph.D *President and Associate Professor of Biblical Studies for Leadership*

The spark of Mark's love for teaching the Bible was first lit in 1987, and he has taught in church, school, and community settings in the decades since then. Some of Mark's teaching experiences include translating portions of the Dead Sea Scrolls, pastoral ministry, leading tours to Israel, and launching two university religious studies programs.