



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.
- 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

- *The Bible Unwrapped* by Meghan Good.
- *Seven Things I Wish Christians Knew About the Bible* by Michael Bird

APPLICATION

Continuing Education learners are also required to apply the teaching to their ministry and reflect on that application in one capstone assignment. Please see the back page for detailed information of this assignment.

TEACHING AGENDA

- Session 1: Personal experience with Scripture and MB Model and method
- Session 2: History, genre, develop
- Session 3: Organization and Structure, Poetry, Wisdom
- Session 4: Narratives, Gospels and Parables
- Session 5: Law and Prophecy
- Session 6: Letters, Apocalypse, conclusion and next steps



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.



CONTINUING EDUCATION APPLICATION ASSIGNMENT

Choose one of the following options (the paper must be three to five pages in length):

Option #1 – Live Intentionally

Engage in two meaningful conversations per week that involve understanding, interpreting, or applying the Bible today. The key is to humbly engage people in the Biblical text, not to attempt to convince them of your interpretation of a text. These are not debates or persuasive arguments but instead are invitations to look at scripture together, if only for a few minutes, and even if you disagree with their interpretation. Engage with two people per week for the six weeks following the teaching weekend. Record each engagement by week, including a brief note as to why you thought it was meaningful.

Option #2 – Equip/Mentor Someone

Meet with one non-family member for three one-hour equipping sessions (virtual or telephone equipping sessions are fine). In these meetings, your role as the equipper and disciple-maker is to use the principles and practices you learned from the course to help them take the next steps in their understanding and application of the Bible. You could focus on specific texts or a specific genre, and the key is to model good interpretation and equip the person to do it well. Describe your approach with this person. In addition, reflect on what worked well and what you could improve as you equipping and mentor people in the future (be specific).

Option #3 – Design Your Own Assignment

Feel free to design your own project to apply the course ideas to your life and ministry. Email the professor a short proposal to make sure that it fits with the course outcomes. This proposal must be submitted by the second week of the course.

Other assignment details, due dates, and submission requirements vary for each teaching church partnership. You will be notified upon registration the exact details to complete the course.