



open learning

Freedom to learn

Course Brochure

Enjoy your studies, develop your faith and increase your knowledge



Learning and
Development

School For In-Service Training
and Development



WILLIAM
BOOTH
COLLEGE

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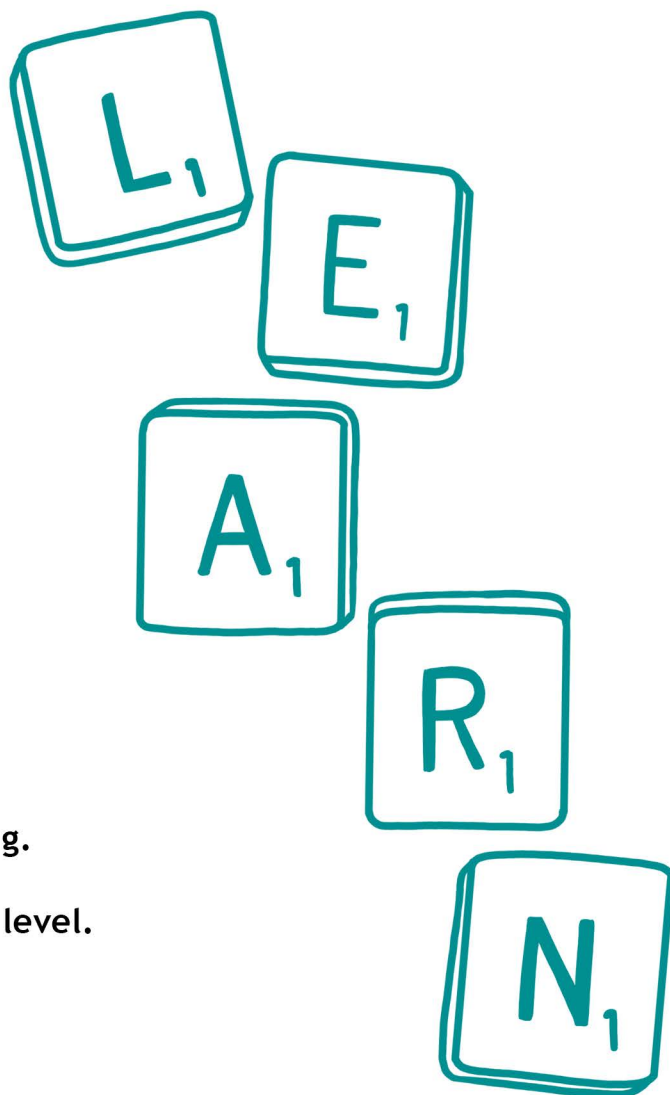
Welcome to Open Learning

Enjoy your studies, develop your faith and increase your knowledge

The course outlines in this brochure aim to help you to choose the appropriate Open Learning course for you.

Our students enjoy our courses for many different reasons:

- All adults over the age of 18 are eligible. You do not have to have studied before to enrol on one of our courses.
- Open Learning students have the freedom of working from home and organising their study time to suit them.
- Courses are offered at three levels: Starter, Foundation and Award level, to accommodate all levels of ability.
- Lessons can be submitted electronically to openlearning@salvationarmy.org.uk or posted to the Open Learning address in this brochure.
- Lessons are available in different fonts, large print and printed on off white or on coloured paper for those who have additional needs. Please ask when enrolling.
- Students new to study can begin at Starter level.
- Mature adults who have not studied for some time use our courses as 'back to study' opportunities.
- Each student has a qualified personal tutor who provides support, guidance and encouragement as they progress through their course. The tutor will also grade assignments and give feedback on written work.



These courses offer an opportunity to:

- Undertake serious study of the Bible
- Learn more about God, the Christian faith and Church tradition
- Gain insight into your own personal faith experience
- Develop resources for practical ministry

Our Courses

Bite Size Courses

Open Learning has now introduced bite sized courses. These are short, single pieces of work that aim to introduce you to a range of different topics. They are available at Award, Foundation and Starter levels.

Starter Courses

These are mainly in workbook form, and there are worksheets to be completed for each lesson. These studies are suitable for students who don't have a comprehensive knowledge of the Bible, or who are not used to doing written studies. If you are a new Christian who wants to learn about the Christian faith, or other faiths, you will find these courses helpful.

Foundation Courses

These courses require short pieces of written work. They give you introductory information on your chosen subjects and aim to stimulate you into further reading and study.

Award Level Courses

These courses aim to encourage and resource you for in-depth study. Each one has a set text book and additional reading is also suggested. Assignments vary and include, but are not limited to, writing essays. These courses also encourage you to explore and apply what you learn to your own life.

Please see the appendix for examples of lessons at each level and for suggested learning pathways.

Certificates

Open Learning courses are not externally validated but are certificated by William Booth College. Individual certificates of completion are offered after every course is successfully completed. An extra certificate can be gained as outlined below.

Cost of Courses

Bite Size Courses

Consisting of one lesson only:

Starter - £10

Foundation - £15

Award - £20

Starter Courses

Consisting of 5 lessons:

£40 per course

Foundation Courses

Consisting of 6 lessons:

£60 per course

Award Courses

Consisting of 6 lessons:

£80 per course

For further information
please contact:

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The Starter Course in Christian Studies

Is awarded for satisfactory completion of:

Any five Starter courses

The Foundation Course in Christian Studies

Is awarded for satisfactory completion of:

One Foundation course from each of the four categories,

Plus, one other Foundation course.

The Award Course in Christian Studies

Is awarded for satisfactory completion of the following Award courses:

One New Testament course - One Old Testament course

History of the Early Church - One other course

Bite Size Courses *Starter level*

Christian Life

BSS1 - Praying the Jesus Prayer

Aim: This bite size course introduces you to the method of prayer known as the Jesus Prayer and guides you through using it for the first time.

Method of study and assessment: Completion of worksheet.

Content: What is the Jesus Prayer?
Praying the Prayer

Reading: The workbook notes and the Good News or the New International Version of the Bible.

Course fee: £10

BSS2 - Balaam's Donkey

Aim: This bite size course introduces you to the story of Balaam's Donkey and what it means for you.

Method of study and assessment: Completion of worksheet.

Content: The grumpy donkey
What does it mean for us?

Reading: The workbook notes and the Good News or the New International Version of the Bible.

Course fee: £10

BSS3 - Understanding the Trinity

Aim: This bite size course introduces you to the Christian understanding of God as Trinity.

Method of study and assessment: Completion of worksheet.

Content: What is the Trinity?
What does the Bible say?

Reading: The workbook notes and the Good News or the New International Version of the Bible.

Course fee: £10

BSS4 - Please Teach Us How to Pray: Praying the Prayer Jesus Taught Us

Aim: This bite size course introduces you to the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to say in Luke chapter 11 verses 1 - 4.

Method of study and assessment: Completion of worksheet.

Content: Who are we speaking to?
How should we speak to God?
First things first
Praying for ourselves: what do we really need?
Did you notice...?
What does this prayer mean for me and my life?

Reading: The workbook notes and the Good News or the New International Version of the Bible.

Course fee: £10

BSS5 - Doubting Faith

Aim: This bite size course helps you to think about the meaning of the word faith. If you have faith, does this mean you will never have any doubts?

Method of study and assessment: Completion of worksheet.

Content: Examples of people in the Bible who doubted their faith in the hard times.

Reading: The workbook notes and the Good News or the New International Version of the Bible.

Course fee: £10

Biblical Studies - The Old Testament

BSS6 - The Healing of Naaman

Aim: This bite size course introduces you to the Old Testament story of the healing of Naaman, a very successful soldier who also had a serious skin disease.

Method of study and assessment: Completion of worksheet.

Content: Understanding the background to the story
Meet the people
Exploring the story
What does this story teach me about my own life?

Reading: The workbook notes and the Good News or the New International Version of the Bible.

Course fee: £10

BSS7 - Samson: Strength vs Grace

Aim: This bite size course introduces you to the story of Samson and what it means for us.

Method of study and assessment: Completion of worksheet.

Content: The story of Samson
What does it mean for my life?

Reading: The workbook notes and the Good News or the New International Version of the Bible.

Course fee: £10

Biblical Studies - The New Testament

BSS8 - Not Worth Noticing? The Widow in the Temple

Aim: This single lesson bite size course introduces you to the story about a widow, someone most people would not even notice. The lesson will help you to explore how her actions affected Jesus.

Method of study and assessment: Completion of worksheet.

Content: Setting the scene
Exploring the story
What does this story mean for my life?

Reading: The workbook notes and the Good News or the New International Version of the Bible.

Course fee: £10

BSS9 - She'll Be Remembered

Aim: This bite size course introduces you to the story about a woman whose name we do not know, but who, out of great love for him, did something for Jesus that he said would always be remembered.

Method of study and assessment: Completion of worksheet.

Content: Setting the scene
Exploring the story
What does this story mean for my life?

Reading: The workbook notes and the Good News or the New International Version of the Bible.

Course fee: £10

BSS10 - The Woman Who Would Not Give Up

Aim: This bite size course introduces you to the story about the Canaanite woman who challenged Jesus to answer her request, showing her faith in him by refusing to give up.

Method of study and assessment: Completion of worksheet.

Content: Understanding the background to the story
Setting the scene
Exploring the story
What does this story mean for my life?

Reading: The workbook notes and the Good News or the New International Version of the Bible.

Course fee: £10

BSS11 - Alone in the Crowd

Aim: This bite size course introduces you to the story about a woman who had great faith in Jesus and the way that this changed her life.

Method of study and assessment: Completion of worksheet.

Content: Setting the scene
Exploring the story
What does this story mean for my life?

Reading: The workbook notes and the Good News or the New International Version of the Bible.

Course fee: £10

BSS12 - They Met at a Well

Aim: This bite size course introduces you to the story about the meeting between Jesus and a Samaritan woman that changed her life and the lives of people in her community.

Method of study and assessment: Completion of worksheet.

Content: Understanding the background to the story
Setting the scene
Exploring the story
What does this story mean for my life?

Reading: The workbook notes and the Good News or the New International Version of the Bible.

Course fee: £10

Biblical Studies - Old and New Testaments

BSS13 - Women in the Story of God's People: Learning From the Lives of Five Women in the Bible

Details for each individual lesson are contained under Starter level S6 on page 16

BSS13A Eve - The Very First Woman

BSS13B Hagar - The Slave Girl

BSS13C Ruth - A Loyal Woman

BSS13D Mary - A Young Woman Chosen by God

BSS13E Dorcas - A Dearly Loved Woman

Course fee: £10 for each Bitesize Study

(If you would like to study all of these, they are available as a full course S6)

Mighty Works - Miracles

BSS14 - Calming the Storm

Aim: This bite size course introduces you to the story about Jesus in Mark chapter 4 verses 35 - 41.

Method of study and assessment: Completion of worksheet.

Content: Understanding the background to the story
Setting the scene
Exploring the story
What does it mean for my life?

Reading: The workbook notes and the Good News or the New International Version of the Bible.

Course fee: £10

Bite Size Courses *Foundation level*

Biblical Studies - The Old Testament

BSF1 - Deborah - A woman who made a difference

Aim: This bite size course introduces you to the story of Deborah and the role she played in God's plans for his people. This story is told in the book of Judges. The stories in that book are challenging to read.

Method of study and assessment: Completion of worksheet.

Content: Introducing the book of Judges
Exploring the story
Unlikely heroes
Celebrating victory
Responding to the story

Reading: As well as the information provided you are also encouraged to do some additional reading.

Judges chapter 4 - 5

Alexander, P; Alexander, D. 2017 The Lion Handbook to the Bible 5th Revised Edition. Oxford: Lion

If you have access to other study resources and would like to find out more about Deborah's story, you may find it helpful to refer to a Bible Dictionary and a Bible commentary on the book of Judges.

Course fee: £15

BSF2 - Rahab - A woman who made a difference

Aim: This bite size course introduces you to the story of Rahab and the surprising role she played in God's plans for his people. You will also be encouraged to think about any way in which your study of this story has encouraged or challenged you about your own life today.

Method of study and assessment: Completion of worksheet.

Content: Help from an unexpected source
Promises kept
A challenging story
Thinking personally

Reading: As well as the information provided you are also encouraged to do some additional reading.

Joshua chapter 2 and chapter 6 - verses 16 - 25

Alexander, P; Alexander, D. 2017 The Lion Handbook to the Bible 5th Revised Edition. Oxford: Lion

If you have access to other study resources and would like to find out more about Rahab's story, you may find it helpful to refer to a Bible Dictionary and a Bible commentary on the book of Joshua.

Course fee: £15

BSF3 - A baby drawn out of the water - Exploring a short Old Testament story about women who made a difference

Aim: This bite size course explores the story of how Moses' mother and sister and the Pharaoh of Egypt's daughter played an important part in God's plans to help his suffering people. It will also encourage you to think about how what you have learned gives you challenge or encouragement in your own life today.

Method of study and assessment: Completion of worksheet.

Content: Setting the scene and Exodus chapter 1
Exploring the story in Exodus chapter 2 verses 1 - 10
A God of surprises
Thinking personally

Reading: As well as the information provided you are also encouraged to do some additional reading.

Exodus chapters 1 - 2 and chapter 3 verses 1 - 12

Alexander, P; Alexander, D. 2017 The Lion Handbook to the Bible 5th Revised Edition. Oxford: Lion.

If you have access to other study resources and would like to find out more about Moses' story, you may find it helpful to refer to a Bible Dictionary and a Bible commentary on the book of Exodus.

Course fee: £15

BSF4 - Midwives in Egypt - Women who made a difference

Aim: This bite size course explores the story of Moses and the Israelites' escape from slavery in Egypt. It also helps you to think about how God was at work fulfilling his plans through ordinary women who made an important difference in a dangerous and difficult situation.

Method of study and assessment: Completion of worksheet.

Content: Setting the scene
Introducing the Pharaoh
Meet the midwives

Reading: As well as the information provided you are also encouraged to do some additional reading.

Genesis chapter 41 verse 57, Genesis 47: 27, Exodus chapter 1

Alexander, P; Alexander, D. 2017 The Lion Handbook to the Bible 5th Revised Edition. Oxford: Lion.

If you have access to other study resources and would like to find out more about Moses' story, you may find it helpful to refer to a Bible Dictionary and a Bible commentary on the book of Exodus.

Course fee: £15

BSF5 - "God is here and I didn't know!" - Exploring the Old Testament story about Jacob, a most unlikely person meeting God in the most unexpected places

Aim: This bite size course explores part of the story of Jacob as it is told in the book of Genesis in the Old Testament.

Method of study and assessment: Completion of worksheet.

Content: Setting the scene: what kind of person was Jacob?
'God is here - and I didn't know!'
'Who am I wrestling with? What is your name?'
'Seeing your face is like seeing the face of God'

Reading: As well as the information provided you are also encouraged to do some additional reading.

Genesis chapter 25 verses 19 - 34; chapter 27 to chapter 28 verse 5 and verses 10 - 22; chapter 32 to chapter 33 verse 11.

Alexander, P; Alexander, D. 2017 The Lion Handbook to the Bible 5th Revised Edition. Oxford: Lion.

If you have access to other study resources and would like to find out more about Jacob, you may find it helpful to refer to a Bible Dictionary and a Bible commentary on the book of Genesis.

Course fee: £15

BSF6 - The Woman of Zarapheth - A woman who made a difference

Aim: This single lesson bite size course introduces you to the story of an unnamed woman who quite unexpectedly supported the prophet Elijah in his ministry and was helped by God in return.

Method of study and assessment: Completion of worksheet.

Content: Setting the scene
Exploring the story
Responding to the story

Reading: As well as the information provided you are also encouraged to do some additional reading.

1 Kings chapter 16 verses 29 - 33 and chapter 17

Alexander, P; Alexander, D. 2017 The Lion Handbook to the Bible 5th Revised Edition. Oxford: Lion.

If you have access to other study resources and would like to find out more about Elijah's story, you may find it helpful to refer to a Bible Dictionary and a Bible commentary on the book of 1 Kings.

Course fee: £15

BSF7 - "This is What The Lord Says" Messages from Old Testament Prophets

Details for each individual lesson are contained under Foundation Level F1 on page 20

BSF7A - The message of Amos

BSF7B - The message of Hosea

BSF7C - The message of Isaiah and Micah

BSF7D - The message of Jeremiah

BSF7E - The message of Ezekiel

BSF7F - The message of Isaiah

Course fee: £15 per Bitesize Course

(If you would like to study all of these prophets, then a full course F1 is available)

BSF8 - Is This Your Life? Old Testament Studies on Living and Growing in Relationship with God

Details for each individual lesson are contained under Foundation level course F2 on page 20

BSF8A - Trusting God - Abraham

BSF8B - Encountering God - God and Moses in conversation

BSF8C - Handling Unhappiness - Hannah

BSF8D - Dealing with Discouragement - Elijah

BSF8E - Running Away from God - Jonah

BSF8F - Praising and Thanking God - Psalm 100

Course fee: £15 per Bitesize Course

(If you would like to study all of these prophets, then a full course F2 is available)

Mighty Works - Miracles

BSF9 - Working together with God in our Communities

Aim: This bite size course is designed to help you to think about how you can work together with God and with other people to improve life in the community or communities to which you belong.

Method of study and assessment: Completion of worksheet.

Content: Created for community
What does this mean for me?
What does the Bible show us?
How can I put what learned into practice?

Reading: Course notes and the Good News Bible or the New International Version of the Bible.

Course fee: £15

BSF10 - Women in the Story of God's People: Learning from the Lives of Six Biblical Women

Details for each individual lesson are contained under Foundation level course F5 on page 23.

BSF10A - Eve - The First Woman
BSF10B - Hagar - The Stranger
BSF10C - Ruth - A Loyal Daughter in Law
BSF10D - Mary - The Mother of Jesus
BSF10E - Martha - A Friend of Jesus
BSF10F - Dorcas - A Loved and Respected Woman

Course fee: £15 per Bitesize Course

(If you would like to study all of these prophets, then a full course F5 is available)

Ethics

BSF11A - Slavery

Aim: This bite size course is designed to highlight some of the continuing problems of slavery today. The course also looks at what the Bible says about slavery.

Method of study and assessment: Completion of worksheet.

Content: Slavery Today
Slavery and the Bible

Reading: Course notes.

Course fee: £15

BSF11B - On Virtue

Aim: This bite size course is designed to help you explore and understand what virtue ethics is and how it can be applied to your life.

Method of study and assessment: Completion of worksheet.

Content: What is virtue ethics?
What does it mean for me?

Reading: Course notes.

Course fee: £15

BSF11C - Pornography

Aim: This bite size course is designed to explore the ethical and Biblical implications of pornography.

Method of study and assessment: Completion of worksheet.

Content: The Ethics of Pornography
The Bible on Pornography

Reading: Course notes.

Course fee: £15

BSF11D - Abortion

Aim: This bite size course is designed to explore what The Salvation Army and the Bible say about abortion.

Method of study and assessment: Completion of worksheet.

Content: What are the questions?
The Salvation Army and the Bible

Reading: Course notes.

Course fee: £15

BSF12A - Exploring Christian Heritage - The Beguines

Aim: This bite size course is designed to introduce the story of the Beguines, a remarkable group of women who lived in community with God, each other and the people God called them to serve.

Method of study and assessment: Completion of worksheet.

Content: Who are the Beguines?
Look at Beguine spiritual writing

Reading: Course notes.

Course fee: £15

BSF12B - Exploring Christian Heritage - Julian of Norwich

Aim: This course introduces you to Julian of Norwich, and how that helps us to understand the circumstances in which she wrote her book. It will begin to introduce you to the world in which Julian lived, and about the role of the anchorite, a respected position in the mediaeval church. It will encourage you to think about ways in which these themes relate to life's joys and challenges today.

Method of study and assessment: You will be asked to write short answers to three questions.

Content: Who was Julian of Norwich?
Look at the main themes of her book

Reading: As well as the information provided, additional reading is suggested in the study guide.

Course fee: £15

BSF12C - Exploring Christian Heritage - Evelyn Underhill

Aim: This bitesize course is designed to introduce you to Evelyn Underhill. Although she spent many years outside the church, eventually Evelyn joined the Anglican Church, the Church of England. Her writing and teaching were especially important as the church faced the challenges of unsettled times within it and in the world around it between the First and Second World Wars.

Method of study and assessment: You will be asked to write short answers to a choice of questions.

Content: Who was Evelyn Underhill?
A brief look at some of the major world events and the social issues of Evelyn Underhill's time, as well as some of the challenges faced by the church
The main themes in Evelyn's writing about Christian life

Reading: As well as the information provided in the study guide, additional reading is suggested in the bibliography at the end of the course material.

Course fee: £15

BSF13 - Dementia

Aim: This bitesize course on dementia and spiritual care is written from a personal perspective. It aims to introduce you to dementia and begins to look at a community model of spiritual care.

Method of study and assessment: The assignments for this course require written answers to a choice of questions.

Content: Defining care
Information on dementia - statistics and stages of the disease
A Community Model of Spiritual Care

Reading: As well as the information provided in the study guide, additional reading is suggested in the bibliography at the end of the course material.

Course fee: £15

Bite Size Courses *Award level*

Biblical Studies - The Old Testament

BSA1 - Listening to God's Word

Details for each individual lesson are contained under Award level course A4 on page 28.

- BSA1A - 'Then God spoke all these words'
- BSA1B - 'But Hannah had no children'
- BSA1C - 'So I went down to the Potter's House'
- BSA1D - 'Not even in Israel have I found such faith'
- BSA1E - 'Welcome Him as you would welcome me'
- BSA1F - 'Listen!'

Course fee: £20 per Bitesize Course

(If you would like to study all of these prophets, then a full course A4 is available)

BSA2 - Exploring Old Testament Stories - The Healing of Naaman

Aim: This bite size course explores the Old Testament story of the healing of a famous warrior. His story is told in 2 Kings 5: 1 - 19. You will also be encouraged to think about what this ancient story has to say to us today.

Method of study and assessment: Completion of worksheet.

Content: Setting the scene
Meet the people: the eminent ones
Meet the people: the people with no names
Meet the people: Naaman the famous hero
Reflecting on the story: what does it mean for me?

Reading: Course notes provided.

Course fee: £20

Christian Life

BSA3 - Praying the Jesus Prayer

Aim: This single lesson bite size course introduces you to the method of prayer known as the Jesus Prayer. This is a prayer that is at the core of the spirituality of the Orthodox Church.

Method of study and assessment: Completion of worksheet.

Content: What is the Jesus Prayer?
Trinitarian Prayer
Praying the Prayer

Reading: Course notes provided and the New International Version of the Bible.

Course fee: £20

BSA4 - Clash of Kings

Aim: This bite size course explores the relationship between Jesus and the Roman Emperor. This relationship will be looked at through the stories of the New Testament, contrasting the titles used to depict each person and placing this within the overall mission of Jesus.

Method of study and assessment: Completion of worksheet.

Content: Only one King
Who is the Prince of Peace?
The coming of the Kingdom

Reading: Course notes.

Course fee: £20

Biblical Studies - The New Testament

BSA5 - Stories Jesus Told -

“There was once a man who had two sons”

Aim: This bite size course explores the story of the father and his two sons told by Jesus in Luke chapter 15: 11 - 32. You will also be encouraged to think about what this story means for you today.

Method of study and assessment: Completion of worksheet.

Content: Setting the scene
Meet the people: the younger son
Meet the people: the older brother
Meet the people: the father
Reflecting on the story: what does it mean for me?

Reading: Course notes provided and the New International Version of the Bible.

Course fee: £20

BSA6 - A Study on the Epistle of James

Aim: This course looks at the Epistle of James. It is designed to help you understand the practical nature of faith and respond to the challenge to live a life of integrity devoted completely to God.

Method of study and assessment: Completion of worksheet.

Content: Overview of the Book of James
Parallels to the Sermon on the Mount
Echoes of the Book of Proverbs

Reading: Course notes provided, the New International Version of the Bible. and Drane, John 2019 Introducing the Old Testament, Fourth Edition. Oxford: Lion: 526-536.

Course fee: £20

Church History

BSA7 - The Reformation

Aim: This course helps you learn about what the Reformation was, why it happened, and what it means for us today.

Method of study and assessment: Completion of worksheet.

Content: What was the Reformation?
Why did the Reformation happen?
What does the Reformation mean for us today?

Reading: Course notes provided and the New International Version of the Bible.

Course fee: £20

BSA8 - Dementia

Aim: This bitesize course on dementia and spiritual care is written from a personal perspective. It aims to introduce you to dementia and begins to look at a community model of spiritual care.

Method of study and assessment: The assignments for this course require written answers to a choice of questions.

Content: Defining care
Information on dementia - statistics and stages of the disease
A Community Model of Spiritual Care

Reading: As well as the information provided in the study guide, additional reading is suggested in the bibliography at the end of the course material.

Course fee: £20

Starter Level Courses

Biblical Studies - The Old Testament

S1 - "You Are My God" -

A personal journey through 5 psalms of prayer and praise

Aim: This course is designed to help you grow in the Christian faith through an introductory study of five psalms

Method of study and assessment: Completion of worksheet for each lesson.

Content: Five Lessons

Lesson 1: Psalm 139: 'Lord, ...you know me'

Lesson 2: Psalm 140: 'Sovereign Lord, my strong deliverer'

Lesson 3: Psalm 141: 'In you I will take refuge'

Lesson 4: Psalm 143: 'Teach me to do your will'

Lesson 5: Psalm 145: 'Every day I will praise you'

Reading: The workbook notes and the Good News or New International Version of the Bible.

Course fee: £40

S2 - Walking With God -

Learning from the lives of 5 Old Testament characters

Aim: This course introduces you to five people in the Old Testament: Abraham, Moses, Hosea, Nehemiah and Jonah. Their stories show us how they got to know God, discovered how to live his way and helped other people to do this too.

Method of study and assessment: Completion of worksheet for each lesson.

Content: Five Lessons

Lesson 1: Trusting in God - Abraham's story

Lesson 2: Talking with God - Moses' story

Lesson 3: Knowing God's love - Hosea's message

Lesson 4: Refusing to give up - Nehemiah's story

Lesson 5: Going God's way? - Jonah's story

Reading: The workbook notes and the Good News or the New International Version of the Bible.

Course fee: £40

Biblical Studies - The New Testament

S3 - John's Gospel

Aim: There are four gospels in the New Testament: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. They are the first four books in the New Testament. Each gospel tells the story of Jesus in its own way. This course gives you an overview of the life of Jesus in John's gospel.

Method of study and assessment: Completion of worksheets for each lesson.

Content: Five Lessons

1. Who is Jesus?

2. Jesus in action

3. I have come in order that you might have life

4. Teaching the disciples

5. A new beginning

Reading: The workbook notes and the Good News or The New International Version of the Bible. The Bible translation used in the workbook notes is Today's New International Version.

Course fee: £40

S4 - Jesus in the Gospels

Aim: This course introduces you to the story of Jesus as it is told in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. These are the first four books in the New Testament. Each Gospel tells the story of Jesus in its own way. This course will give you an overview of the life of Jesus by looking at all of the Gospels.

Method of study and assessment: Completion of worksheet for each lesson.

Content: Five Lessons

Lesson 1: New beginnings

Lesson 2: Preparing for ministry

Lesson 3: The ministry of Jesus

Lesson 4: The friends and enemies of Jesus

Lesson 5: Jesus dies - and rises again!

Reading: The workbook notes and the Good News or New International Version of the Bible.

Course fee: £40

S5 - The Story of Jesus by Mark

Aim: This course introduces you to the story of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus as it is told in Mark's Gospel.

Method of study and assessment: Completion of worksheet for each lesson.

Content: Five Lessons

Lesson 1: The story begins

Lesson 2: Jesus' miracles and parables

Lesson 3: Following Jesus

Lesson 4: Jesus in Jerusalem

Lesson 5: The end of the story - or is it?

Reading: The workbook notes and the Good News or the New International Version of the Bible.

Course fee: £40

Biblical Studies - Old and New Testament

S6 - Women in the Story of God's People - Learning from the lives of five women in the Bible

Aim: This course introduces you to some of the women in the Old and New Testaments who are part of the Bible's story of God and his people.

Method of study and assessment: Eleven lessons with one short written assignment on each lesson.

Content: Five Lessons

Lesson 1: The very first woman

Lesson 2: The slave girl

Lesson 3: A loyal woman

Lesson 4: A young woman chosen by God

Lesson 5: A dearly loved woman

Reading: The workbook notes and the Good News or New International Version of the Bible.

Course fee: £40

(Lessons from the above course can be done individually as Bite Size courses if you prefer BSS13A-E)

Christian Life

S7 - First Steps in the Christian Faith

Aim: This course introduces you to some of the passages in the Bible that can help you to grow in your new relationship with God.

Method of study and assessment: Completion of worksheet for each lesson.

Content: Five Lessons

Lesson 1: Discovering God's love

Lesson 2: Learning how to live in God's love

Lesson 3: Growing in God's love

Lesson 4: Learning how to keep on growing in God's love

Lesson 5: Sharing God's love

Reading: The workbook notes and the Good News or New International Version of the Bible.

Course fee: £40

S8 - How to Study the Bible - An Introduction for New Students

Aim: This introductory course aims to help you understand more about the Bible. It suggests resources to help you to study it and encourages you to explore how it continues to speak to our lives today. We hope that at the end of this course you will feel able to undertake further study of the Bible using the skills you have gained.

Method of study and assessment: Completion of worksheet for each lesson.

Content: Five Lessons

Lesson 1: Understanding the Bible: Using different translations

Lesson 2: Comparing Bible translations: Psalm 1

Lesson 3: Resources to help with Bible study: Study Bibles, Bible Concordances, The Lion Handbook to the Bible

Lesson 4: More resources for Bible study: Bible Dictionaries, Bible Commentaries

Lesson 5: Understanding and applying the Bible's message today: Paul's letter to the Galatians

Reading: Have available a version of the Bible that you find easy to read. All the information needed to complete the exercises in this study guide is given in the notes. However, study resources are also recommended for your own use if you wish to continue to explore the Bible after you have finished this course.

Course fee: £40

S9 - Learning from Andrew - A Follower of Jesus

Aim: This course introduces you to the story of Andrew, a man who was not famous but who made a real difference to the lives of some of the people around him. As you think about Andrew, this course will encourage you to think about how you can make a difference to the lives of some of the people around you too.

Method of study and assessment: Completion of worksheets for each lesson.

Content: Five Lessons

Lesson 1: A man who made a difference: keen to learn

Lesson 2: A man who made a difference: a loving brother

Lesson 3: A man who made a difference: someone who noticed 'little' things

Lesson 4: A man who made a difference: eager to share

Lesson 5: What about me?

Reading: The workbook notes and the Good News or the New International Version of the Bible.

Course fee: £40

Salvation Army Distinctiveness

S10 - Called to be God's People (This course is also suitable for studying in groups)

Aim: This course explores the 'Twelve Calls to Salvationists' to help you develop a deeper spiritual life. The book Called to be God's People is provided.

Method of study and assessment: A workbook of twelve lessons contains questions to be answered and some short essays to be completed.

Content: A Call to Salvationists
A Call to Worship
A Call to Preaching
A Call to the Mercy Seat
A Call to the Hallowing of Meals
A Call to Soldiership
A Call the Disciplines of the inner life
A Call to the Disciplines of our life together
A Call to the Disciplines of our life in the world
A Call to Cultivating faith)
A Call to Holiness teaching
A Call to Spiritual Battle
A Call to pass on the Faith

Reading: The booklet provided. Additional reading includes The Good News Bible and The New International Version of the Bible and The Song Book of The Salvation Army.

Course fee: £40 (See A11 for a more in-depth study of this subject).

S11 - Discovering The Salvation Army

Aim: This course will help you to discover how The Salvation Army began and what its members believe. On this course you will also learn about the work The Salvation Army does today.

Method of study and assessment: Completion of worksheet for each lesson.

Content: Five Lessons
Lesson 1: Beginnings - William and Catherine
Lesson 2: The Salvation Army is born
Lesson 3: The early Salvation Army: its work and its people
Lesson 4: What is The Salvation Army like now?
Lesson 5: What work does The Salvation Army do today?

Reading: The workbook notes and the Good News or the New International Version of the Bible.

Course fee: £40

World Religions

S12A - Finding Out About World Religions: Christianity

Aim: This course introduces you to Christianity, at this time the largest religion in the world

Method of study and assessment: Completion of worksheets for each lesson.

Content: Five Lessons
Lesson 1: Introducing Christianity
Lesson 2: Introducing Jesus and his followers
Lesson 3: What Christians believe
Lesson 4: How Christians worship
Lesson 5: The Christian Calendar

Reading: The workbook notes.

Course fee: £40

S12B - Finding out about World Religions: Islam

Aim: This course introduces you to Islam, the second largest religion in the world.

Method of study and assessment: Completion of worksheets for each lesson.

Content: Five Lessons

Lesson 1: Introducing Islam

Lesson 2: Introducing Muhammad

Lesson 3: What Muslims believe

Lesson 4: How Muslims worship

Lesson 5: The Muslim Calendar

Reading: The workbook notes

Course fee: £40

S12C - Finding out about World Religions: Judaism

Aim: This course introduces you to Judaism, the oldest religion in the world that believes in only one God.

Method of study and assessment: Completion of worksheet for each lesson.

Content: Five Lessons

Lesson 1: Introducing Judaism

Lesson 2: Introducing Abraham and Moses

Lesson 3: What do followers of the Jewish faith believe?

Lesson 4: How do followers of the Jewish faith worship?

Lesson 5: What are some of the important dates in the Jewish Calendar?

Reading: The workbook notes and a copy of the Old Testament

Course fee: £40

S12D - Finding out about World Religions: Sikhism

Aim: This course introduces you to Sikhism. At this time, it is the fifth largest religion in the world.

Method of study and assessment: Completion of worksheets for each lesson

Content: Five Lessons

Lesson 1: Introducing Sikhism

Lesson 2: Introducing The Gurus

Lesson 3: What Sikhs believe

Lesson 4: How Sikhs worship

Lesson 5: The Sikh Calendar

Reading: The workbook notes

Course fee: £40

Foundation Level Courses

Biblical Studies - The Old Testament

🕒 F1 - “This is what the Lord says” -

Messages from Old Testament prophets

Aim: This course introduces you to the message of seven Old Testaments prophets. You will also be encouraged to explore their meaning for life today and for your own relationships with God and others.

Method of study and assessment: This course contains six lessons and includes information about each of the Bible passages for study. The assignments for each lesson require short written answers to three questions.

Content: Six Lessons

Lesson 1: The message of Amos

Lesson 2: The Message of Hosea

Lesson 3: The Message of Isaiah (1-39) and Micah

Lesson 4: The message of Jeremiah

Lesson 5: The message of Ezekiel

Lesson 6: The message of Isaiah (40-66)

Reading: The New International Version of the Bible. As well as the information provided you are also encouraged to do some additional reading. Helpful study resources are suggested in the study guide including: Alexander, P; Alexander, D. 2017 The Lion Handbook to the Bible 5th Revised Edition. Oxford: Lion.

Course fee: £60

🕒 F2 - Is This Your Life? Old Testament studies on living and growing in relationship with God

Aim: This course introduces you to five Old Testament characters and one example of praise and thanksgiving in the Book of Psalms. It also encourages you to reflect on your own relationship with God in the light of your study.

Method of study and assessment: This course contains six lessons and includes information about each of the Bible passages for study. The assignments for each lesson require short written answers to three questions.

Content: Six Lessons

Lesson 1: Trusting God - Abraham

Lesson 2: Encountering God - God and Moses in conversation

Lesson 3: Handling unhappiness - Hannah

Lesson 4: Dealing with discouragement - Elijah

Lesson 5: Running away from God - Jonah

Lesson 6: Praising and thanking God - Psalm 100

Reading: As well as the information provided you are also encouraged to do some additional reading. Helpful study resources are suggested in the study guide including: Alexander, P; Alexander, D. 2017 The Lion Handbook to the Bible 5th Revised Edition. Oxford: Lion and The New International Version of the Bible.

Course fee: £60

(Lessons from both the above courses can be done individually as Bite Size courses)

Biblical Studies - The New Testament

F3 - Jesus in the Gospels

Aim: This course aims to help you to explore the story of Jesus' life, ministry and death as told by the gospel writers Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. You will be encouraged to think about how the different ways in which they tell the same story adds to our understanding of Jesus. You will also be encouraged to reflect on how the gospel accounts of Jesus' life and ministry still speak to us today.

Method of study and assessment: There are six lessons in this course. The assignments for each lesson require written answers to a choice of questions.

Content: Six lessons

Lesson 1: Life in Palestine at the time of Jesus

Lesson 2: The Gospel of Mark

Lesson 3: The Gospel of Matthew

Lesson 4: The Gospel of Luke

Lesson 5: The Gospel of John

Lesson 6: What is the New Testament?

Reading: The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John

Alexander, P; Alexander, D. 2017 The Lion Handbook to the Bible 5th Revised Edition. Oxford: Lion

It will be helpful if you have access to other resources to help you to explore the gospels, such as a Bible dictionary or a Bible commentary.

Course fee: £60

F4 - The Birth of the Church

Aim: : This course introduces you to the Book of Acts and to some of the letters Paul wrote to newly formed Christian communities.

Method of study and assessment: This course contains six lessons and includes information about each of the Bible passages for study. The assignments for each lesson require short written answers to three questions.

Content: Six Lessons

Lesson 1: The church is born (and the first Christian message)

Lesson 2: Stephen the first Christian martyr and the man who consented to his death

Lesson 3: Peter's vision - and a new direction for mission

Lesson 4: Paul the missionary

Lesson 5: Still travelling - Paul's third journey and the road to Rome

Lesson 6: Paul the letter writer

Reading: As well as the information provided, you are also encouraged to do some additional reading. Helpful study resources are suggested in the study guide, including: Alexander, P; Alexander, D. 2017 The Lion Handbook to the Bible 5th Revised Edition. Oxford: Lion and The New International Version of the Bible.

Course fee: £60

Biblical Studies - Old and New Testament

F5 - Women in the Story of God's People - Learning from the lives of Six Biblical women

Aim: This course introduces you to six women, three of whom appear in the Old Testament and three in the New. You will be encouraged to think about how God cared for them and how they all played a part in his plans for the world. You will also be encouraged to explore the meaning of their stories for life today and for your own relationship with God and with other people.

Method of study and assessment: This course contains six lessons. The notes in the study guide give you information about each of the Bible passages for study. You are also expected to do some reading of your own and to use this and the notes provided to help you to answer the assignment questions. Assignments for each lesson include writing short answers to questions about the story and its meaning for you, making reference to the Bible passages and your reading.

Content: Six Lessons
Lesson 1: Eve, the first woman
Lesson 2: Hagar, the stranger
Lesson 3: Ruth, a loyal daughter in law
Lesson 4: Mary, the mother of Jesus
Lesson 5: Martha, a friend of Jesus
Lesson 6: Dorcas, a loved and respected woman

Reading: As well as the information provided you are also encouraged to do some additional reading. Helpful study resources are suggested in the study guide including: Alexander, P; Alexander, D. 2017 The Lion Handbook to the Bible 5th Revised Edition. Oxford: Lion and The New International Version of the Bible.

Course fee: £60

(Lessons from this course can be done individually as Bite Size courses if you prefer)

Christian Life and Salvation Army Distinctives

F6 - “Heart to God and Hand to Man” - Exploring the Biblical basis for Christian social and community service

Aim: This course helps you to explore what the Bible has to say about God; his desire that all people should come to know him and the responsibility God's people have to those in need. The course also looks at how, from the beginning, Christians have responded to and continued that teaching.

Method of study and assessment: This course contains six lessons. For each lesson, you will have a choice of assignments. You may write short answers to all three questions set, or you can choose to answer just two of the questions in more detail. A word count for your answers is given for your guidance.

Content: Six Lessons
Lesson 1: Salvation for both worlds - William Booth (the founder of The Salvation Army)'s changing thought on making social service a part of the movement's mission
Lesson 2: God in us - God's view of human beings and our response
Lesson 3: A charter for living - God's covenant and guidance for living
Lesson 4: True offerings - the message of the prophets on restoring relationship with God through loving him and caring for each other
Lesson 5: Jesus, our example - Jesus' example and teaching on how we should live our lives with regard to our duty to God and each other
Lesson 6: The Church in action - the book of Acts and the letters to the early church (the Epistles) show holistic mission in action

Reading: The New International Version of the Bible. Each lesson includes Bible passages to study and think about. In addition to the Bible passages there will be articles for further reading. You will be expected to use the study guide notes, your reading and reflection to help you answer the assignment questions.

Course fee: £60

F7 - We Believe - An Introduction to Salvation Army Beliefs

Aim: This course aims to introduce you to the beliefs of The Salvation Army and the background to these beliefs. The course will encourage you to reflect on and apply your learning to your own life.

Method of study and assessment: This course contains six lessons. The assignments for each lesson involve short written answers. A word count for your answers is given for your guidance.

Content: Six Lessons
Lesson 1: Why doctrine? and Doctrine 1
Lesson 2: Doctrines 2 and 3
Lesson 3: Doctrines 4 and 5
Lesson 4: Doctrines 6 and 7
Lesson 5: Doctrines 8 and 9
Lesson 6: Doctrines 10 and 11

Reading: The text book *This We Believe* and the notes in this study guide give you information you need to help you to answer the assignment questions. The text book is included with the study guide for this course. You will also be asked to read selected passages from *The New International Version* of the Bible.

Course fee: £60

F8 - Belief in Action - An introduction to the work of The Salvation Army in The United Kingdom and Ireland

Aim: This course gives you an introductory overview of some of The Salvation Army's work in the UK and Ireland and introduces you to the Biblical beliefs on which its evangelical and social activities are based.

Method of study and assessment: This course contains six lessons. The notes in the study guide give you information about the work of The Salvation Army in the UK and Ireland. You are also encouraged to think about the needs of people in your own neighbourhood and to use this and the notes provided to help you to answer the assignment questions. These are varied and include short written answers (word counts are given for your guidance) as well as practical activities such as designing posters and writing prayers.

Content: Six Lessons
Lesson 1: The history of The Salvation Army: How did it all begin?
Lesson 2: 'Belief in Action': What does The Salvation Army believe?
Lesson 3: What does The Salvation Army Do? : Supporting people of all ages; working with the unemployed.
Lesson 4: What does The Salvation Army Do? : Supporting the homeless.
Lesson 5: What does The Salvation Army Do? : Working to make life fair for all.
Lesson 6: What does The Salvation Army Do? : Supporting people in emergencies; reuniting families; working around the world

Reading: As well as the information given in the study guide additional reading is suggested to help you to find out more about The Salvation Army.

Course fee: £60

Study Skills

F9 - Study Skills - An introduction for new students

Aim: To introduce new students to basic study skills and to refresh the memories of those who have not studied for a long time. The study skills range from finding the right study resources to planning and writing an essay.

Method of study and assessment: This practical course contains six lessons. There is one written assignment to be completed for each lesson. The assignments ask you to practice and then describe or demonstrate how you used the skills taught in that lesson.

Content: Six Lessons

Lesson 1: Finding the right books

Lesson 2: Making notes from your books

Lesson 3: Organising your notes

Lesson 4: Writing a book review

Lesson 5: Understanding essay questions - what am I being asked?

Lesson 6: Answering the question - planning and writing your essay

Reading: You are asked to choose one of two possible subjects for study during this course. Basic reading is suggested for each subject.

Course fee: £60

F10 - Exploring Christian Heritage

Aim: This course aims to introduce you to the writing of people who have had an important influence on Christian spirituality over the centuries. You will also be encouraged to reflect on how what they have shared can help you in the development of your faith, and in supporting others on their faith journey.

Method of study and assessment: There are six lessons in this course. The assignments for each lesson require written answers to a choice of questions.

Content: Six Lessons

Lesson 1: Prayer and contemplation

Lesson 2: Introducing the English Mystics

Lesson 3: The Beguines

Lesson 4: Julian of Norwich

Lesson 5: Evelyn Underhill

Lesson 6: Listening to God in Scripture

Reading: As well as the information provided, additional reading is suggested in the study guide.

Course fee: £60

Ministry Skills

F11 - Preaching for Beginners

Aim: This course introduces the essential elements required for preaching a sermon. It will explore key ways of constructing and presenting a relevant and engaging message for your hearers. The course will introduce you to helpful resources and ideas to aid you in your preaching preparation and presentation experience.

Method of study and assessment: There is a series of set exercises and assignments. It is important to complete these exercises, but note that, unlike the assignments, the exercises are intended for your personal reference and development and are not subject to marking.

Content: There are six lessons which will explore the following important aspects of creating and presenting a relevant message.

- Lesson 1: The Preacher's Inspiration
- Lesson 2: The Preacher's Rationale
- Lesson 3: The Preacher's Theme
- Lesson 4: The Preacher's Sermon Structure
- Lesson 5: The Preacher's Presentation
- Lesson 6: The Preacher's Inner Life

Reading: Translations of the Bible recommended for study include The New Living Translation (NLT); New International Version (2011).

All quotations from the Bible in this course are taken from the NLT unless otherwise stated. The main reading for this course is Stevenson, Peter K. (2017) Preaching. London, SCM Press. Other helpful reading is suggested in the study guide.

Course fee: £60

F12 - Leading Worship for Beginners

Aim: This course introduces the essential elements required for leading a worship service through from start to finish. The course primarily uses the analogy of air flight to describe how worship can flow from one part to another, smoothly and with meaning for the congregation. The course also highlights the priorities that should be considered through every aspect of preparation and presentation.

Method of study and assessment: There are a series of exercises and also assignments designed to fulfil these aims and to enable the student to reflect more deeply into their own response to the leading of God's people in worship. It is important to complete these and it will be helpful to have a writing pad and paper to make notes as suggested.

Content: This course is divided into 6 Sessions as follows:

- Lesson 1: Introduction and Overview
- Lesson 2: The Worship Flight
- Lesson 3: The Call to Worship
- Lesson 4: More Common Elements of the Worship Service
- Lesson 5: Crafting a timed Plan
- Lesson 6: Assignment and Short Personal Reflection

Reading: Translations of the Bible recommended for study include The New Living Translation (NLT); New International Version (2011).

All quotations from the Bible in this course are taken from the NLT unless otherwise stated.

Course fee: £60

Award Level Courses

Biblical Studies - The Old Testament

🕒 A1A - Old Testament Story: Part A - Genesis to the fall of Israel

This is the first of a two-part course giving an introductory overview of the Old Testament story.

Aim: This course introduces you to the story of God's people as recorded in the Old Testament and aims to inspire and equip you for further study of it. The assignments also prompt reflection on Christian life and the development of resources for practical ministry.

Learning Outcomes: At the end of this the course you should be able to:

- Identify key events and characters in this part of the Old Testament story
- Identify significant theological themes in the books studied
- Explain the relevance of the Old Testament story to Christian life today

Content: Six lessons following the Old Testament story from Genesis to the fall of the kingdom of Israel.

Lesson 1: In the beginning

Lesson 2: From Egypt to the brink of the Promised Land - Moses and the Exodus

Lesson 3: Life in the Promised Land

Lesson 4: 'A king to lead us' - Israel under David and Solomon

Lesson 5: A divided kingdom

Lesson 6: 'Fallen is Virgin Israel, never to rise again' (Amos 5: 2) - the fall of the Northern Kingdom

Level: You should be prepared to undertake the key reading as well as find and use other appropriate study resources. (Additional resources are suggested in the study guide). Assignments include essays of 800 words, which will require you to include references and bibliographies.

Reading: The New International Version of the Bible.

The basic textbook is:

Drane, John 2019 Introducing the Old Testament, Fourth Edition. Oxford: Lion.

Course fee: £80

A1B - Old Testament Story: Part B - From Isaiah to the period between the Testaments

This is the second of a two-part course giving an introductory overview of the Old Testament story.

Aim: At the end of this the course you should be able to:

- Identify key events and characters in this part of the Old Testament story.
- Identify significant theological themes in the books studied.
- Explain the relevance of the Old Testament story to Christian life today.

Learning Outcomes: At the end of this the course you should be able to:

- Identify key events and characters in this part of the Old Testament story
- Identify significant theological themes in the books studied
- Explain the relevance of the Old Testament story to Christian life today

Content: Six lessons following the Old Testament story from the later history of Judah to the period between the Old and New Testaments.

Lesson 1: Isaiah and Micah - 'Who is a God like you?'

Lesson 2: Jeremiah, a 'prophet to the nations'

Lesson 3: Ezekiel, a voice in exile

Lesson 4: Isaiah's hope in exile - 'I am about to do a new thing'

Lesson 5: Ezra and Nehemiah - the return from exile

Lesson 6: What happened next? Between the Testaments

Level: You should be prepared to undertake the key reading as well as find and use other appropriate study resources. (Additional resources are suggested in the study guide). Assignments include essays of 800 words, which will require you to include references and bibliographies.

Reading: The New International Version of the Bible. The basic textbook is: Drane, John 2019 Introducing the Old Testament, Fourth Edition. Oxford: Lion.

Course fee: £80

A2 - A Journey Of Faith - Introducing the Old Testament Psalms

Aim: This course introduces you to the psalms of the Old Testament and aims to inspire and equip you for further study of them. The assignments also prompt reflection on Christian life and the development of resources for practical ministry.

Learning Outcomes: At the end of this course you should be able to:

- Identify different types of psalms in the psalter
- Describe the main characteristics of the types of psalm studied
- Outline the content and meaning of each psalm studied
- Where relevant, explain the references to the history of God's people
- Explain the relevance of the psalms studied to contemporary Christian life and worship

Content: Six lessons exploring twelve psalms

Lesson 1: Introducing the Book of Psalms.

Lesson 2: Psalm 8 & Psalm 23 - Personal prayers of praise and trust.

Lesson 3: Psalm 65 & Psalm 72 - Communal thanksgiving and prayer for the king.

Lesson 4: Psalm 73 & Psalm 78 - The wisdom of the righteous

Lesson 5: Psalm 95 & Psalm 97 - God is King!

Lesson 6: Psalm 136 & Psalm 137 - Communal praise and lament

Level: You should be prepared to undertake the key reading as well as find and use other appropriate study resources. Assignments include essays of 800 words, which will require you to include references and bibliographies.

Reading: The New International Version of the Bible. The basic textbook is Bullock, C. Hassell 2001 Encountering the Book of Psalms. USA: Baker Academic

Course fee: £80

A3 - The Prophet - Ezekiel

Aim: This course introduces you to the life and message of the prophet Ezekiel, helping you to 'tackle the parts they would otherwise ignore' (John Taylor). It will also introduce you to resources that will help them to explore what each study passage intended to say to its original readers; to hear how it continues to speak today and to reflect on an appropriate personal response.

Learning Outcomes: At the end of this course you should be able to:

- Identify key features of each study passage
- Explain what each passage aimed to say to its original recipients
- Explain your understanding of the relevance of the passage to life today
- Explain your personal response to the passage

Content: There are six lessons in this study guide

Study 1: Introducing the life and times of Ezekiel

Study 2: Ezekiel's call

Study 3: The Watchman's warnings

Study 4: Personal choice and responsibility

Study 5: Judgment on the nations and the promise of Restoration

Study 6: Ezekiel's vision of the restored community

Level: You should be prepared to undertake the key reading as well as find and use other appropriate study resources. The course notes are based on the commentary by John Taylor. Assignments include essays of 800 words, which will require you to include references and bibliographies.

Reading: The basic reading for this course is : Taylor, J.B. 1969 Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries Volume 22 Ezekiel: An Introduction and Commentary. Inter-Varsity Press: Nottingham and The New International Version of the Bible.

Course fee: £80

A4 - Listening to God's Word

About this course: This study guide builds on the Open Learning course How to study the Bible: an introduction for new students and covers six Bible passages, three from the Old Testament and three from the New Testament.

Aim: This course introduces you to resources that will help you to explore what each study passage intended to say to its original readers; to hear how it continues to speak today and to reflect on an appropriate personal response.

Learning Outcomes: At the end of this course you should be able to:

- Identify key features of each study passage
- Explain what each passage aimed to say to its original recipients
- Explain your understanding of the relevance of the passage to life today
- Explain your personal response to the passage

Content: Six Lessons

Lesson 1: 'Then God spoke all these words' - (Exodus 20:1-17; Exodus 23:1-13)

Lesson 2: '...but Hannah had no children' - (1 Samuel 1:1-20)

Lesson 3: 'So I went down to the potter's house...' - (Jeremiah 18: 1 - 12)

Lesson 4: '...not even in Israel have I found such faith' - (Luke 7:1-10)

Lesson 5: '...welcome him as you would welcome me.' - (Philemon 1: 17)

Lesson 6: 'Listen!' (Revelation 3:14-22)

Level: You should be prepared to undertake the key reading as well as find and use other appropriate study resources. Assignments consist of writing explanatory notes on the study passage for each lesson (points to include are suggested) and a short essay summing up your learning about the passage studied and its significance for life today, which will require you to include references and bibliographies.

Reading: The New International Version of the Bible. The basic reading for this course is Gordon D. Fee and Stuart, Douglas 2003 How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth (Third Edition). USA: Zondervan Additional reading is suggested in the study guide.

Course fee: £80

(Lessons from this course can be done individually as Bite Size courses BSA1A-F)

A5 - The Prophet - Jeremiah

Aim: This course introduces you to the life, times and message of the prophet Jeremiah. It also introduces you to resources that will help you to explore what each study passage intended to say to its original readers; to hear how it continues to speak today and to reflect on an appropriate personal response.

Learning Outcomes: At the end of this course you should be able to:

- Identify key features of each study passage
- Explain what each passage aimed to say to its original recipients
- Explain your understanding of the relevance of the passage to life today
- Explain your personal response to the passage

Content: Six Lessons

Study 1: Introducing the life and times of Jeremiah and his call

Study 2: The message of Jeremiah

Study 3: Darkness and pain - and glimpses of hope?

Study 4: False hope?

Study 5: God's word to 'The Nations'

Study 6: The future of God's people

Level: You should be prepared to undertake the key reading as well as find and use other appropriate study resources. Assignments include essays of 800 words, which will require you to include references and bibliographies.

Reading: Lalleman, H. 2013 Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries Volume 21 Jeremiah and Lamentations: An Introduction and Commentary. Inter-Varsity Press: Nottingham and The New International Version of the Bible.

Course fee: £80

Biblical Studies - The New Testament

A6 - Jesus in the Synoptic Gospels

Aim: This course introduces you to the story of Jesus' life and ministry as it is told by Gospel writers Matthew, Mark and Luke. We hope that this course will inspire and equip you to further study of these gospels and other parts of the New Testament. This course also aims to encourage reflection on Christian faith, life and service.

Learning Outcomes: At the end of this the course you should be able to:

- Describe how each gospel presents Jesus and his ministry.
- Identify the main themes and characteristics of each of the Synoptic Gospels.
- Explain the relevance of Jesus' life and ministry to Christian life today.

Content: Six lessons exploring the person and ministry of Jesus in the Synoptic Gospels and the social, political and religious background to his life and teaching.

Lesson 1: Mark's Gospel: Announcing the Good News

Lesson 2: Matthew's Gospel: God's promises fulfilled

Lesson 3: Luke's Gospel: Good News for everyone!

Lesson 4: Understanding the context: Palestine in the time of Jesus

Lesson 5: The heart of the Gospel: Jesus - teacher and healer

Lesson 6: The heart of the Gospel: The Kingdom of God

Level: You should be prepared to undertake the key reading as well as find and use other appropriate study resources. Assignments include essays of 800 words, which will require you to include references and bibliographies.

Reading: You will find it helpful to supplement the information given in this study guide by reading:

Drane, John 2019 *Introducing the New Testament*, Fourth Edition. Oxford: Lion Hudson,

Stanton, Graham 2002 *The Gospels and Jesus*. (Oxford Bible Series)

UK: Oxford University Press and The New International Version of the Bible.

Course fee: £80

A7A - New Testament Studies -

Introducing the New Testament - Part A: The Gospels and Acts

This is the first of a two-part course giving an introductory overview of the New Testament story.

Aim: This course introduces you to the story of God's people as recorded in the New Testament and aims to inspire and equip you for further study of it. The assignments also prompt reflection on Christian life and the development of resources for practical ministry.

Learning Outcomes: At the end of this the course you should be able to:

- Identify key events and characters in this part of the New Testament story.
- Identify significant theological themes in the books studied.
- Explain the relevance of the New Testament story to Christian life today.

Content: Six lessons following the New Testament story

Lesson 1: Introducing the Gospels:

A new kind of writing:

Lesson 2: Introducing the Gospel of Mark:

'...the good news of Jesus Christ...'

Lesson 3: Introducing the Gospel of Luke:

'...so that you may know the truth...'

Lesson 4: Introducing the Gospel of Matthew:

'...God is with us...'

Lesson 5: Introducing the Gospel of John:

'...And the Word became flesh..'

Lesson 6: Introducing the book of the Acts of the Apostles:

'...you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit..'

Level: You should be prepared to undertake the key reading as well as find and use other appropriate study resources. (Additional resources are suggested in the study guide). Assignments include essays of 800 words, which will require you to include references and bibliographies.

Reading: The New International Version of the Bible.

The basic textbook is: Drane, John 2019 *Introducing the New Testament*, Fourth Edition. Oxford: Lion.

Course fee: £80



A7B - New Testament Studies:

Introducing the New Testament - Part B: New Testament Letters

This is the second of a two-part course giving an introductory overview of the New Testament story.

Aim: This course introduces you to the story of God's people as recorded in the later part of the New Testament and aims to inspire and equip you for further study of it. The assignments also prompt reflection on Christian life and the development of resources for practical ministry.

Learning Outcomes: At the end of this the course you should be able to:

- Identify key events and characters in this part of the New Testament story.
- Identify significant theological themes in the books studied.
- Explain the relevance of the New Testament story to Christian life today.

Content: Six lessons following the on-going New Testament story

Lesson 1: Paul's letter to the Galatians: The power of a new birth.

Lesson 2: James and Hebrews: Letters to Jewish Christians.

Lesson 3: 1 and 2 Corinthians: Paul's letter to the Christians at Corinth.

Lesson 4: Paul's letter to the Christians in Rome: Be transformed!

Lesson 5: Paul's letters to the Christians at Philippi and Colossae: 'Paul, a prisoner of the Gospel'

Lesson 6: The Revelation to John: 'The God who is and who was and who is to come'

Level: You should be prepared to undertake the key reading as well as find and use other appropriate study resources. (Additional resources are suggested in the study guide). Assignments include essays of 800 words, which will require you to include references and bibliographies.

Reading: The New International Version of the Bible.

The basic textbook is: Drane, John 2019 Introducing the New Testament, Fourth Edition. Oxford: Lion.

Course fee: £80



A8 - John's Gospel

Aim: This course will introduce you to the content of John's gospel and will help you to explore its main themes. You will also be encouraged to reflect on how this gospel speaks to us today. The study notes include some comments from different writers, giving you a variety of perspectives to consider alongside those of Kruse, the writer of the basic textbook for this course.

Learning Outcomes: At the end of this course you should be able to:

- Identify the distinctive characteristics and key themes of John's gospel
- Explain how John's presentation of Jesus addresses issues that are relevant to life today.

Content: Six Lessons

Lesson 1: Introducing John's Gospel

Lesson 2: The coming of Jesus

Lesson 3: Jesus—giver of life

Lesson 4: Conflict and controversy: the challenge of Jesus

Lesson 5: Jesus with his disciples—looking to the future

Lesson 6: God's future revealed.

Level: You should be prepared to undertake the key reading as well as find and use other appropriate study resources. (Additional resources are suggested in the study guide). Assignments include essays of 800 words, which will require you to include references and bibliographies.

Reading: The New International Version of the Bible. The basic textbook is:

Colin G Kruse 2017 Tyndale New Testament Commentaries Volume 4 John: An Introduction and Commentary. London: Inter-Varsity Press.

Course fee: £80

Biblical Studies - The New Testament

A9 - The first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

Aim: This course aims to provide a detailed guide to Paul's first letter to the Christian church in Corinth.

Learning Outcomes: At the end of this course you should be able to:

- Describe the historical background to this letter and explain why it was written.
- Summarise the contents of the letter, highlighting its themes and the topics it covers.
- Explain the Christian doctrines and ethical teaching in the letter and the insights it gives into life in the Christianity community.

Content: This course consists of ten lessons looking in detail at the 16 chapters in the letter.

- Lesson 1: The Corinthian Church
- Lesson 2: Danger in Division (1 Corinthians 1:1 - 2:5)
- Lesson 3: Babies in Christ (1 Corinthians 2:6 - 3:6)
- Lesson 4: Fools, for Christ's sake (1 Corinthians 3:10 - 4:21)
- Lesson 5: Christian Liberty (1 Corinthians 5:1 - 7:40)
- Lesson 6: Corinthians Customs (1 Corinthians 8:1 - 10:13)
- Lesson 7: Corinthians in a Non-Christian Environment (1 Corinthians 10:14 - 11:34)
- Lesson 8: Make love your aim (1 Corinthians 12:1 - 14:40)
- Lesson 9: Christ is Risen! (1 Corinthians 15:1 - 58)
- Lesson 10: A Practical Turn of Mind (1 Corinthians 16:1 - 24)

Level: You should be prepared to undertake the key reading as well as find and use other appropriate study resources. Assignments for each lesson include short pieces of written work and more substantial essays based on research.

Reading: The New International Version of the Bible

Morris, Leon 1966 1 Corinthians: Tyndale commentaries. Leicester: Inter-Varsity Press

Drane, John 2019 Introducing the New Testament, Fourth Edition. Oxford: Lion

Additional reading is provided in the course notes.

Helpful additional reading on the New Testament:

Elwell, Walter A. Yarborough, Robert W. 2005 Encountering the New Testament: A Historical and Theological Survey. USA: BakerAcademic

Alexander, P. Alexander, D. 2017 The Lion Handbook to the Bible Fifth Revised Edition. Oxford: Lion

Course fee: £80

Salvation Army Distinctives

🕒 A10A - Salvation Army History: Part 1 (1865 - 1912)

Aim: This course introduces you to the history of The Salvation Army from its beginnings to the death of William Booth in 1912. We will be covering this period over the course of six lessons. Each of the lessons will cover a significant period, or theme, within the history of The Salvation Army. This should help you to form a picture of the social and religious circumstances that influenced the formation and growth of The Salvation Army. You will also have the opportunity to examine how the marriage of evangelism and social work became a unique feature of Salvation Army ministry.

Learning Outcomes: At the end of this the course you should be able to:
Describe the social and religious conditions of Victorian Britain
Identify the significant events and people involved in the establishment of the Christian Mission and Salvation Army
Recognise the social, religious and economic context in which The Salvation Army originated, and the influences on its subsequent development.

Content: This course consists of six lessons with each lesson covering a particular aspect of Salvation Army history.

Lesson 1: Setting the Scene
Lesson 2: The Early Days: 1865-1878
Lesson 3: The Salvation Army Commences: 1878-1890
Lesson 4: Social Work
Lesson 5: Social Reform
Lesson 6: The Army Consolidates: 1890-1912

Level: You should be prepared to undertake the key reading as well as find and use other appropriate study resources. Assignments for each lesson will consist of a total of 1600 words, which will require you to include references and bibliographies.

Reading: There are a number of very useful books on the history of The Salvation Army which are still in print and these have been included in the Reading List, together with those that are out of print but you may be able to obtain from other sources. There are extensive notes included for each lesson that make reference to these works.

Course fee: £80

🕒 A10B - Salvation Army History: Part 2 (1912-1978)

Aim: This course introduces you to the history of The Salvation Army from the death of its founder William Booth in 1912 to the centenary of the adoption of the name Salvation Army. We will be covering this period over the course of six lessons. Each of the lessons will cover a significant period, or theme, within the history of The Salvation Army which should help you to form a picture of the social and religious circumstances that influenced the formation and growth of The Salvation Army during the 20th century. You will also have the opportunity to examine how the Army responded to major events such as the first and Second World Wars, and the constitutional crisis of 1929.

Learning Outcomes: At the end of this the course you should be able to:
• Describe the social and religious conditions of Britain in the 20th century.
• Identify the significant events and people involved in the development of The Salvation Army.
• Recognise the social, religious and economic context in which The Salvation Army operated, and the influences on its continuing development.

Content: This course consists of six lessons with each lesson covering a particular aspect of Salvation Army history.

Lesson 1: The Dynasty Continues
Lesson 2: Leadership in Crisis
Lesson 3: Reform
Lesson 4: The Salvation Army at War
Lesson 5: The Salvation Army at Peace
Lesson 6: The Second Century

Level: You should be prepared to undertake the key reading as well as find and use other appropriate study resources. Assignments for each lesson will consist of a total of 1600 words, which will require you to include references and bibliographies.

Reading: There are a number of very useful books on the history of The Salvation Army which are still in print and these have been included in the Reading List, together with those that are out of print but you may be able to obtain from other sources. There are extensive notes included for each lesson that make reference to these works.

Course fee: £80

Salvationist Life, Faith and Belief

A11A - The Adventure of Doctrine Part A: A Study of Salvationist Doctrines 1-6

Aim: This course introduces you to the first six doctrines of The Salvation Army. You will be covering this in six lessons. Each of the lessons will consider one of The Salvation Army doctrines and related issues and will encourage you to explore these beliefs in the context of your own life and experience.

Learning Outcomes: At the end of this the course you should be able to:

- Outline the history and background of Salvationist doctrines.
- Explain some of the theological underpinnings of the faith of Salvationists.

Content: This course consists of six lessons with each lesson covering one aspect of Salvation Army doctrine:

Lesson 1: The Adventure of Belief...in the Bible (Doctrine 1)

Lesson 2: The Adventure of Belief...in God (Doctrine 2)

Lesson 3: The Adventure of Explaining God...as the Trinity (Doctrine 3)

Lesson 4: The Adventure of Explaining God...as seen in Jesus (Doctrine 4)

Lesson 5: The Adventure of Dealing with Sin...the Problem (Doctrine 5)

Lesson 6: The Adventure of Dealing with Sin...the Solution (Doctrine 6)

Level: You should be prepared to undertake the key reading as well as find and use other appropriate study resources. Assignments for each lesson will consist of a total of 1600 words, which will require you to include references and bibliographies. While this course is not an advanced study of doctrine we do anticipate that you will be stimulated to think for yourself about the beliefs outlined and the issues raised. This course should help you not only to learn what Salvationists believe, but also bring you to a clearer understanding of what you believe. Some topics may well challenge your thinking. It is our hope that you will seek out further resources in order to deepen your understanding, particularly in these areas.

Reading: The Salvation Army's official Handbook of Doctrine published in 2010 is an essential accompaniment to the course notes. Alongside The Salvation Army handbook of doctrine you should read: McGrath, Alister (Gen. Ed.) 2006 The New Lion Handbook: Christian Belief. Oxford: Lion Hudson and The New International Version of the Bible.

Further reading is suggested in the study guide, including:

McGrath, Alister 2010 Christian Theology: an Introduction. Oxford: Blackwell

Milne, Bruce 2014 Know the Truth, A handbook of Christian belief Third Edition. Leicester: IVP

Course fee: £80

A11B - The Adventure of Doctrine Part B:

A Study of Salvationist Doctrines 7-11

Aim: This course introduces you to doctrines seven to eleven of The Salvation Army. You will be covering this over the course of six lessons. Each of the lessons will consider one of The Salvation Army doctrines and related issues and will encourage you to explore these beliefs in the context of your own life and experience. The final lesson will invite you to reflect on what you have learned and relate the doctrines to your own life and practice.

Learning Outcomes: At the end of this the course you should be able to:

- Give an indication of some of the background and history of Salvation Army doctrine
- Explain some of the theological underpinnings of the faith of Salvationists

Content: This course consists of six lessons with the first five lessons covering one aspect of Salvation Army doctrine:

- Lesson 1: The Adventure of Salvation..It's Features (Doctrine 7)
- Lesson 2: The Adventure of Salvation..It's Nature (Doctrine 8)
- Lesson 3: The Adventure of Holiness..Maintaining Salvation (Doctrine 9)
- Lesson 4: The Adventure of Holiness..Full Salvation (Doctrine 10)
- Lesson 5: The Adventure of Eternity..Last Things (Doctrine 11)
- Lesson 6: The Continuing Adventure

Level: Assignments for each lesson will consist of a total of 1600 words, which will require you to include references and bibliographies. This course should help you not only to learn what Salvationists believe, but also bring you to a clearer understanding of what you believe. Some topics may well challenge your thinking. It is our hope that you will seek out further resources in order to deepen your understanding, particularly in these areas.

Reading: The Salvation Army's official Handbook of Doctrine published in 2010 is an essential accompaniment to the course notes and The New International Version of the Bible. Alongside The Salvation Army handbook of doctrine you should read:

McGrath, Alister (Gen. Ed.) 2006 The New Lion Handbook: Christian Belief. Oxford: Lion Hudson. (If out of print, the 2011 edition of Theology: The Basics, also by McGrath, could be used as an alternative)

Additional Reading: You will also find the following books helpful

McGrath, Alister 2010 Christian Theology: an Introduction. Oxford: Blackwell

Milne, Bruce 2014 Know the Truth, A handbook of Christian belief Third Edition. Leicester: IVP

McGrath, Alister, Belief for Everyone London: SPCK (This is a series of excellent short books currently available)

Course fee: £80

A12 - Salvationist Life and Faith

Aim: This course introduces you to the findings of the Spiritual Life Commission and the twelve 'Calls' to Salvationists.

Learning Outcomes: At the end of this the course you should be able to:

- Identify the Spiritual Life Commission's Call to Salvationists.
- Highlight twelve vital areas of the Army's spiritual life
- Explain the relevance of the each of the calls to the life of the Salvationist.

Content: This course consists of six lessons with each lesson covering two of the 'Calls' to Salvationists

- Lesson 1: (a) The Call to Worship
(b) The Call to God's Word
- Lesson 2: (a) The Call to the Mercy Seat
(b) The Call to Celebrate Christ's Presence
- Lesson 3: (a) The Call to Soldiership
(b) The Call to the Inner Life
- Lesson 4: (a) The Call to our Life Together
(b) The Call to our Life in the World
- Lesson 5: (a) The Call to Cultivate Faith
(b) The Call to Holiness
- Lesson 6: (a) The Call to War
(b) The Call to the Family

Level: Assignments for each lesson will consist of a total of 1600 words, which will require you to include references and bibliographies.

Reading: The New International Version of the Bible.

As well as having the opportunity to study the 'Calls' to Salvationists you will be able to examine The Salvation Army's position in relation to the teaching of the Christian Church. This will be achieved by using the following: McGrath, Alister (Gen. Ed.) 2006 The New Lion Handbook: Christian Belief. Oxford: Lion Hudson (If out of print, the 2011 edition of Theology: The Basics, also by McGrath, could be used as an alternative). Street, Robert 1999 'Called to be God's People'. London: The Salvation Army [Available from Salvationist Publishing and Supplies Ltd].

Course fee: £80

Church History

A13 - History of the Early Church

Aim: This course helps you to form a picture of what life was like in the Early Church from its inception to approximately AD 500.

Learning Outcomes: At the end of this the course you should be able to:

- Identify significant periods, events and people in the development of the Christian Church.
- Recognise the social, political, religious and economic context in which church originated, and the influences on its subsequent development.
- Form a link between the historical and the contemporary church.

Content: This course consists of six lessons with each lesson covering a particular theme from Early Church history.

- Lesson 1: The Beginnings of the Church
- Lesson 2: Persecution
- Lesson 3: Heresies
- Lesson 4: Church Councils
- Lesson 5: Early Church Fathers
- Lesson 6: The Development of the Church

Level: You should be prepared to undertake the key reading as well as find and use other appropriate study resources. Assignments for each lesson will consist of a total of 1600 words, which will require you to include references and bibliographies.

Reading: Chadwick, Henry 1993 The Penguin History of the Church Vol. 1: The Early Church. London: Penguin
McGrath, Alister 2013 Christian History An Introduction. Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell
Further reading is suggested in the study guide.

Course fee: £80



Questions students ask - and the answers

- 🕒 **How can I get advice on which course to take or if I need help when I receive my course materials?**
Contact Open Learning - details are given on the Enrolment Form and on page 2 of this brochure.
- 🕒 **The course fees are reasonably priced, but I can't afford the full cost.**
The Salvation Army is a charity and no profit is made. The courses are subsidised, and tutors' fees are kept to a minimum. Fees may be paid in instalments by arrangement with the Open Learning Team.
- 🕒 **What is the timescale for completing assignments?**
We would expect a course to be completed in 12 months, but allowances will be made for exceptional circumstances. No set assignment dates are given. However, many students set their own timetable and often send in lessons once a month.
- 🕒 **When will I find out who my tutor is?**
When you receive your course materials or when you submit your first lesson.
- 🕒 **Can I find out information about who my tutor is?**
There are details of our tutors at the back of this brochure. Our tutors are made up of retired officers (Ministers), serving officers (Ministers) and priests from other denominations.
- 🕒 **What if something prevents me from studying for a while?**
Students may resume a course after a break in their studies. It is helpful if you can let the Open Learning Team know if you are taking a break.
- 🕒 **What if I receive the course materials and, having looked at them, decide that the course is not right for me?**
If this happens, please contact the Open Learning team to discuss an alternative course. You can then exchange the materials you received for a course that is better suited to your needs.

Our Tutors



Alan is a retired Salvation Army Officer. An avid Manchester United supporter (since the days of the Busby Babes). He is married with two grown up children and has been a tutor with Open Learning for four years. He has an M.A. in Religious Studies.



Carl is an officer. His background is from a non-church attending family, he came to faith later in life. He has been an officer in the Salvation Army for 10 years. He is married and has one grown-up child, and an energetic, people-loving Springer Spaniel. He likes to walk in the countryside, read and watch films. He has a B A Hons in Theology and Ministry.



Caroline has served as a Salvation Army Officer for 39 years. Married to Richard, she has three children, three in-law children and five grandchildren. She holds a Master of Arts in Christian Spirituality. She loves art, reading good books, cooking with simple and sustainable ingredients; and creating spaces that are lovely, cosy and welcoming.



Charles was a Salvation Army officer for more than 34 years before retiring at the end of 2017. He is married and has three married children, and five grandchildren. Charles, who has BA and MBA degrees as well as a diploma in Theology, has been supporting Open Learning for the past year.



David has been an officer for 46 years, mainly working in Social Services and Training. For 7 years he worked overseas in Hong Kong and Singapore. He holds both a Masters and Bachelor degree in Social Work and Social Work Education. Since retiring in 2014 he has enjoyed working as a Tutor with Open Learning.



Emma has been an officer for 18 years. She was a Corps Officer for 15 years and has been working with Open Learning since January 2020. She has a BA(Ed) in Religious Studies and an MA in Pastoral Theology.



Gerald is a priest in the Scottish Episcopal Church. He has had a life time association with The Salvation Army and has taught in schools and university. He has two Masters Degrees, one in Religious Studies and one in Education and a Doctorate in Philosophy. He is married, retired, and has two sons and two grandchildren.

Grayson has been an officer for 37 years. He is now retired and has been with Open Learning Team for 4 years. He is a widower with 4 children and 5 grandchildren. He holds a B.Ed and a M.Th. in Preaching.



Harold is a retired Salvation Army Officer. As an Active Officer he served for a number of years in corps (church) appointments. He also served on the staff of the Salvation Army Training College in London and Territorial and Divisional Headquarters. He is married with two married grown up sons, six grandchildren and a great granddaughter. He has a Diploma in Theology and Bachelor of Divinity (Hon).



Kathryn has been an officer for 35 years and has worked in Open Learning for seven years. She is married with two grown up children and two grandchildren. She has an MA in theology and education.



Lynette has worked for The Salvation Army in a community role for many years. For the last 8 years she has followed God's calling to serve in community as a Territorial Envoy: a Salvation Army Spiritual Leader. She came back to education late in life and gained a B.A. (Hons) in Theology and an MA in Theology and Women's Spirituality.



Melvyn has been an officer for 46 years and has worked in Open Learning for 5 years. He is married with three grown up children and nine grandchildren and has a BA, and PGDip in preaching.



Richard is in his 40th year as a SA Officer. His varied ministry has taken him to all parts of the UK. Richard and his wife Caroline have 3 children and 5 grandchildren. He has an MA in the Theology of Mission and Ministry. He enjoys playing the piano and writing in his spare time.



Rosemary is an Anglican priest with a long ministry in hospital Chaplaincy. She is currently very involved in spiritual direction or accompaniment. She has long links with the SA. She has an adult son and three Master degrees in related theological studies.



Tracy has been a Corps Officer for ten years and holds a BA Hons in Pastoral care with Psychology, a level 3 award in Education and Training and a PG cert in advanced chaplaincy. In her spare time she loves to read and take walks.



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Appendix

Examples of lessons at each level:

Extract from Starter course:

An Introduction to John's Gospel Lesson 1

Who is Jesus? In this study you will find out about some of the things John said about Jesus in the first four chapters of his gospel. You will find it helpful to read John chapters 1 - 4 before you begin this worksheet.

Light and Life

What does John then say about Jesus in verse 4?

You might be interested to know that light was the first thing that God made in the book of Genesis, the first book in the Bible. You can read about this in Genesis chapter 1 verse 3.

Today we can turn a light on in our homes whenever we need it. We have street lights and torches to help us to see in the dark. This was not so in Jesus' time. Stop and imagine for a moment a life with no light.

How would you feel?

What do we need light for? List as many things as you can:

Without light, plants and crops we need for food cannot grow. People reading John's gospel knew that during the darkness of night, they and their precious flocks and herds were all more easily attacked by thieves and by enemies in wartime. They knew that it was very hard to find the right way and a safe path to travel when it was dark. Light gives life and it protects life, keeping it safe. Think about this for a moment.

John says that Jesus is 'the light of all people' in verse 4.
What is John saying Jesus does for people?

In verse 5, what does John say that the darkness cannot do to this light of Jesus?



Extract from Foundation level course: Jesus in the Gospels Lesson 5 John's Gospel

What will I learn about in this lesson? Although each of the gospels tell the story of Jesus in slightly different ways, they all agree on who Jesus was and what he did and said. In this lesson you will discover some of the ways in which John's way of writing about Jesus is different from the other gospels. Together with Matthew, Mark and Luke, what John has written helps to give us a fuller picture of Jesus.

At the end of this study you should be able to describe some of the features found only in John's gospel; sum up some of Jesus' teaching in this gospel and explain what it means for us today.

Reading: Alexander, P; Alexander, D. 2017 The Lion Handbook to the Bible 5th Revised Edition. Oxford: Lion. You will find the information on John's gospel on pages 621 - 642 in this book.

Pause for thought: In chapter 1 verses 10 - 13 John describes different peoples' responses to Jesus. What did John say about these different reactions and what happened for these people as a result? Do you think this is still true today?

Steps along the way: Only John tells us about the conversation with Nicodemus. You can read about this in chapter 3 verses 1 - 21. Jesus was teaching this religious leader about belonging to God's kingdom or, as John usually expresses it, receiving the eternal life only God can give (verses 3 - 8). How does Jesus say that this happens (verses 14-17)? How would you explain this to someone today?

Assignments: *You have a choice of questions to answer. Answer one question only. Your answer should total 750 words.*

1. a) In chapter 8 verse 12 Jesus says to the Pharisees 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have the light of life and will never walk in darkness'. In chapter 9, in what ways has the life of the blind man changed because of his meeting with Jesus? (Look, for example, at 9: 24-38).

What is the difference between the healed man and the Pharisees in this story?

b) Is this story and what it teaches important for us today? Explain what you think and why.

2. a) What did Jesus teach about the part played by the Holy Spirit in the lives of his followers in chapter 3 verses 1 - 21 and in chapter 14 verses 25 - 26?

b) Does this say anything to you that is important for your life today? Explain what you think and why.

3. a) Only John writes about Mary's meeting with Jesus while she was alone at the empty tomb and about Thomas' meeting with the risen Jesus. Describe either Mary's experience at tomb of Jesus and what she did after meeting Jesus in chapter 20 verses 11 - 18 or Thomas' meeting with the risen Jesus in chapter 20 verses 24 - 29.

b) What did that meeting do for the person you chose to write about? Why were these meetings so important either to Mary or to Thomas? What does that say to us about knowing Jesus today? Explain what you think and why.

Extract from Award level course: John's Gospel Lesson 1

Study 1: Introducing John's gospel

What will I discover in this study?

You will have an introductory overview of the background and content of John's gospel.

At the end of this study you should be able to give a summary of the following information about John's gospel: authorship; the aim of the writer(s); John's relationship with the synoptic gospels; the portrayal of Jesus in John. You should also be able to explain how this helps with deeper understanding of the gospel.

Reading:

Kruse pages 1-43 - Introduction and overview

John Drane's book *Introducing the New Testament* (Fourth Edition 2019 Oxford: Lion) is helpful additional reading for anyone studying the New Testament. Pages 294-305 provide a brief and helpful introduction to John's gospel.

Pause for thought - Can we trust John's gospel?

Commenting on this, Drane (2019:296-8) admits that the differences between John and the synoptics have in the past led to suggestions that John did not offer a reliable account of Jesus' life and ministry. However, he points out that close studies of the differences leads to the realization that John's information came from a different source. There are also instances where John's content can 'be used to supplement the information of the other gospels in such a way as to make the whole story of Jesus' life and ministry more understandable' (2019:298). Drane goes on to offer examples of this.

D. Moody Smith (1995 *New Testament Theology: The Theology of the Gospel of John*. Cambridge University Press: Cambridge, page 182) writes that 'The portrayal of Jesus in the Fourth Gospel resonates with that of the Jesus of the broader Gospel tradition and the New Testament generally'. Drane (2019:307) agrees: 'For all the distinctiveness of the various stories about Jesus, there is clearly an inner coherence in the gospels as a whole and it is relatively easy to identify the key elements of his teaching as the fundamental aspects of it are the same in all four gospels'. Chapter 11 of Drane's book is helpful reading if you want to think about the trustworthiness of the gospels.

Steps along the way

The Old Testament spoke about 'signs and wonders' that showed God was present and active in the world and the lives of his people. Memories of God's activities (such as the exodus from slavery in Egypt, for example) were recorded and treasured.

Look at Joel 2:30. What does it say? How do you think this relates to the person and ministry of Jesus in John's gospel?

Sayings: 'I am....' John's gospel also records significant sayings of Jesus - his 'I am' statements.

Pause for thought

Before reading any further, think about how many of these 'I Am' sayings you can remember. In what ways did Jesus describe himself?

Steps along the way

Read the story of the encounter between Moses and God in Exodus chapter 3. Now look again at verses 9 -14. What is John showing about Jesus in these statements that begin 'I am....'?

You can read Jesus' 'I am' sayings in John 6:35 and 48; 8:12; 10:7, 11, 14; 11:25; 14:6; 15:1. John shows Jesus describing himself using words that his listeners would instantly recognise as essential in everyday life - he speaks of himself as water, bread and light, for example. All human beings need these in order to stay alive. These are also images that were important in the Old Testament - for instance, in Exodus God is shown providing his people with bread and water as they wandered in the wilderness after their escape from Egypt. John often places the 'I am' statements of Jesus in the context of Jewish religious celebrations and Kruse explains the background to these and draws out the full significance of the images used by Jesus (see, for example, page 231).

Assignments:

You have a choice of questions to answer (see next page). You can EITHER:
Answer one question in depth. Your answer should total 1600 words.

OR:

You can choose to answer two questions, in which case each of your answers should total 800 words.

Extract from Award level course: John's Gospel Lesson 1 cont.

Assignments cont:

1. Can John's Gospel be considered a reliable historical source for the ministry and teaching of Jesus?

Give reasons for your opinion, making reference to the gospel and to your reading.

2. Using both a chart prepared by you and your own additional comments, compare John's Gospel with the synoptic gospels with reference to a) chronology and b) major differences in style and content.

3. How important do you think it is to know the background information to this gospel that you have covered in this study as you read John?

Explain why you think this, making reference to the gospel and to your reading.

Suggested Learning Pathways

These are some suggested learning pathways through the courses to help you develop your knowledge and understanding. You may wish to put your own pathway together at a level that is appropriate for you.

Learning to study

S 8 - How to study the Bible: An introduction for new students
F 9 - Study Skills: An introduction for new students
A 4 - Listening to God's Word

Exploring Christian Life

BSS 1 - Praying the Jesus Prayer
BSS 4 - Please Teach us to Pray: Praying the prayer that Jesus taught
BSS 5 - Doubting Faith
S 7 - First Steps in the Christian Faith

Exploring the New Testament

S 4 - Jesus in the Gospels
F 3 - Jesus in the Gospels
Either
A 7A - Introducing the New Testament. Part A: the Gospels and Acts and
A 7B Introducing the New Testament: New Testament Letters
Or
A 6 - Jesus in the Synoptic Gospels and **A 8** John's Gospel

Exploring the Old Testament

S 2 - Walking with God: Learning from the lives of five Old Testament characters
F 1 - 'This is what the Lord says': Messages from the Old Testament prophets
Either
A 3 Ezekiel and **A 5** Jeremiah
Or
A 1A - Old Testament Story. Part A: Genesis to the fall of Israel and
A 1B - Old Testament Story. Part B: From Isaiah to the period between the Testaments

Women who made a difference

BSF 2 - Rahab: A woman who made a difference
BSF 4 - The Midwives in Egypt: Women who made a difference
BSF 8 - C Hannah: Handling Unhappiness from Is this your life?
Old Testament Studies on Living and Growing in Relationship with God
F 5 - Women in the story of God's People: Learning from the lives of six Biblical women

The History of the Christian Church

F 4 - The Birth of the Church
A 12 - The History of the Early Church
BSA 7 - The Reformation

The Story of The Salvation Army

S 11 - Discovering The Salvation Army
F 6 - Heart to God, Hand to Man: Exploring the Biblical basis for Christian social and community service
A 9A - The Salvation Army: Part 1 (1895 - 1912) and
A 9B - The Salvation Army: Part 2 (1912 - 1978)



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