open learning

Freedom to learn

Course Directory

Enjoy your studies, develop your faith
and increase your knowledge

WILLIAM BOOTH COLLEGE

THE SALVATION ARMY

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WELCOME TO OPEN LEARNING

Enjoy your studies, develop your faith, and increase your knowledge

The courses outlined in this directory 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 located at the bottom of this page.
- 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 often 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

For further information please contact:

Open Learning
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Denmark Hill
London
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Email: openlearning@salvationarmy.org.uk

OUR COURSES

BITESIZE 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. These courses are helpful to make sure that you are working at the right level for you.

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 provide introductory information on your chosen subjects and aim to encourage further reading and study.

AWARD LEVEL COURSES
These courses aim to encourage and equip you for in-depth study. Each one has a set textbook 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 aditional certificate can be earned after satisfactory completion of the following:

THE STARTER COURSE IN CHRISTIAN STUDIES
Awarded after satisfactory completion of any five Starter courses

THE FOUNDATION COURSE IN CHRISTIAN STUDIES
Awarded after satisfactory completion of any five Foundation courses

THE AWARD COURSE IN CHRISTIAN STUDIES
Awarded after satisfactory completion of any four Award courses

COSTS

BITESIZE COURSES
Consisting of one lesson only
£10 - Starter
£15 - Foundation
£20 - Award

STARTER COURSES
Generally consisting of 5 lessons - £40 per course

FOUNDATION COURSES
Generally consisting of 6 lessons - £60 per course

AWARD COURSES
Generally consisting of 6 lessons - £80 per course

BITESIZE COURSES

BITESIZE STARTER

Biblical Studies and Prayer

PRAYING THE JESUS PRAYER

This bitesize 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 workbook.

Content:
What Is the Jesus Prayer?
Praying the Prayer

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

Course fee: £10
Course reference: BSS1

BALAAM'S DONKEY

This bitesize course introduces you to the story of Balaam's Donkey and what it means for you.

Method of study and assessment: completion of workbook.

Content:
The Grumpy Donkey
What Does it Mean for Us?

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

Course fee: £10
Course reference: BSS2

UNDERSTANDING THE TRINITY

This bitesize course introduces you to the Christian understanding of God as Trinity.

Method of study and assessment: completion of workbook.

Content:
What Is the Trinity?
What Does the Bible Say?

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

Course fee: £10
Course reference: BSS3

PLEASE TEACH US TO PRAY: PRAYING THE PRAYER JESUS TAUGHT US

This bitesize 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 workbook.

Content:
Who Are We Speaking to?
How Should We Speak to God?
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 Bible* or the *New International Version Bible*.

Course fee: £10
Course reference: BSS4

DOUBTING FAITH

This bitesize 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 workbook.

Content:
Examples of People in the Bible Who Doubted Their Faith in the Hard Times

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

Course fee: £10
Course reference: BSS5

THE HEALING OF NAAMAN

This bitesize 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 workbook.

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 Bible* or the *New International Version Bible*.

Course fee: £10
Course reference: BSS6

SAMSON: STRENGTH VS GRACE

This bitesize course introduces you to the story of Samson and what it means for us.

Method of study and assessment: completion of workbook.

Content:
The Story of Samson
What Does It Mean for My Life?

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

Course fee: £10
Course reference: BSS7

CALMING THE STORM

This bitesize course introduces you to the story about Jesus in Mark 4:35-41.

Method of study and assessment: completion of workbook.

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 Bible* or the *New International Version Bible*.

Course fee: £10
Course reference: BSS14

Life and Faith

GOD IS WITH US: EXPLORING THE PRESENCE OF GOD IN OUR LIVES

This bitesize course covers the prayer of affirmation, 'God is with us', which will bring you into the presence of God, just where you are at that moment of time when you need it most.

Method of study and assessment: completion of workbook.

Content:
Explore the Presence of God in Our Lives
Explore the Presence of God in the Bible

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

Course fee: £10
Course reference: BSS15

BITESIZE FOUNDATION

Biblical Studies - The Old Testament

DEBORAH – A WOMAN WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE

This bitesize 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 workbook.

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:
Book of Judges chapters 4-5.
Alexander, P. Alexander, D. *The Lion Handbook to the Bible Fifth Revised Edition*. Oxford: Lion (2017)
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
Course reference: BSF1

RAHAB – A WOMAN WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE

This bitesize 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 workbook.

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. *The Lion Handbook to the Bible Fifth Revised Edition*. Oxford: Lion (2017)
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
Course reference: BSF2

A BABY DRAWN OUT OF THE WATER – EXPLORING A SHORT OLD TESTAMENT STORY ABOUT WOMEN WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE

This bitesize 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 workbook.

Content:
Setting the Scene and Exodus Chapter 1
Exploring the Story in Exodus Chapter 2:1-10
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 3:1-12
Alexander, P. Alexander, D. *The Lion Handbook to the Bible Fifth Revised Edition*. Oxford: Lion. (2017)
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
Course reference: BSF3

MIDWIVES IN EGYPT – WOMEN WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE

This bitesize 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 workbook.

Content:
Setting the Scene
Introducing the Pharaoh
Meet the Midwives
Thinking Personally

Reading: As well as the information provided, you are also encouraged to do some additional reading:
Genesis chapter 41:57, Genesis chapter 47:27, Exodus chapter 1
Alexander, P, Alexander, D. *The Lion Handbook to the Bible Fifth Revised Edition*. Oxford: Lion. (2017)
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
Course reference: BSF4

GOD IS HERE AND I DIDN'T KNOW!

This bitesize course explores part of the Old Testament story of Jacob, a most unlikely person meeting God in the most unexpected places, as it is told in the Book of Genesis in the Old Testament.

Method of study and assessment: completion of workbook.

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 25:19-34, Genesis 27 to Genesis 28:5 and verses 10-22, Genesis 32 to Genesis 33:11.
Alexander, P; Alexander, D. *The Lion Handbook to the Bible Fifth Revised Edition.* Oxford: Lion. (2017)
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
Course reference: BSF5

THE WOMAN OF ZAREPHATH – A WOMAN WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE

This single lesson bitesize 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 workbook.

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 16:29-33 and 1 Kings 17.
Alexander, P; Alexander, D. *The Lion Handbook to the Bible Fifth Revised Edition.* Oxford: Lion. (2017)
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
Course reference: BSF6

Christian Life

WORKING TOGETHER WITH GOD IN OUR COMMUNITIES

This bitesize 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 workbook.

Content:
Created for Community
What Does This Mean for Me?
What Does the Bible Show Us?
How Can I Put What I have Learned into Practice?

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

Course fee: £15
Course reference: BSF9

Ethics

SLAVERY
This bitesize 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 workbook.

Content:
Slavery Today
Slavery and the Bible

Reading: Course notes.

Course fee: £15
Course reference: BSF11A

ON VIRTUE
This bitesize course is designed to explore and understand what virtue ethics is and how it can be applied.

Method of study and assessment: completion of workbook.

Content:
What is Virtue Ethics?
What Does It Mean for Me?

Reading: Course notes.

Course fee: £15
Course reference: BSF11B

PORNOGRAPHY
This bitesize course is designed to explore the ethical and biblical implications of pornography.

Method of study and assessment: completion of workbook.

Content:
The Ethics of Pornography
The Bible on Pornography

Reading: Course notes.

Course fee: £15
Course reference: BSF11C

ABORTION
This bitesize course is designed to explore what The Salvation Army and the Bible say about abortion.

Method of study and assessment: completion of workbook.

Content:
What Are the Questions?
The Salvation Army and the Bible

Reading: Course notes.

Course fee: £15
Course reference: BSF11D

Life and Faith

DEMENTIA

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, additional reading is suggested in the study guide.

Course fee: £15
Course reference: BSF13

WHAT AM I WORTH? AN EXPLORATION OF THE BIBLE'S TEACHING

In this study you will be encouraged to explore what the Bible says about the worth of every human being. You will also be prompted to reflect on what difference this makes to our view of ourselves and other people.

Method of study and assessment: completion of workbook.

Content:
What Is It That Gives Me Value as a Person?
What Does the Bible Say About Human Beings?

Reading: Course notes.

Course fee: £15
Course reference: BSF14

A REFLECTIVE STUDY ON BEREAVEMENT

This bitesize course is designed to help our understanding of loss and bereavement and its impact. It will also offer insight into how to support those affected by bereavement.

Method of study and assessment: A reflective journal. There are reflection spaces in which you are invited to write about your own thoughts and feelings as you work through the course.

Content:
Looking at Loss
Coping and Supporting

Reading: Course notes.

This course covers some significant losses. If you feel that you might appreciate some support as you work through the course, it would be helpful to think about where you can find that support now, before you start the course.

Course fee: £15
Course reference: BSF15

CARE FOR CREATION

In this study you will be encouraged to explore what the Bible says about the importance of every human being recognising the value of the world we live in. You will also be prompted to reflect on what difference this makes to our view of ourselves and other people.

Method of study and assessment: Completion of workbook.

Content:
The wonder of God's creation and biblical teaching
How we can and should respond and act.

Reading: Course notes.

Course fee: £15
Course Reference: BSF16

BITESIZE AWARD

Prayer

PRAYING THE JESUS PRAYER

This single lesson bitesize 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 workbook.

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

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

Course fee: £20
Course reference: BSA3

Biblical Studies - The Old Testament

EXPLORING OLD TESTAMENT STORIES: THE HEALING OF NAAMAN

This bitesize 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 workbook.

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
Course reference: BSA2

CLASH OF KINGS

This bitesize 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 workbook.

Content:
Only One King
Who is the Prince of Peace?
The Coming of the Kingdom

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

Course fee: £20
Course reference: BSA4

Biblical Studies: New Testament

STORIES JESUS TOLD: 'THERE WAS ONCE A MAN WHO HAD TWO SONS'

This bitesize 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 workbook.

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 Bible.

Course fee: £20
Course reference: BSA5

A STUDY ON THE EPISTLE OF JAMES

This bitesize 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: The assignments for this course require written answers to a choice of questions.

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 Bible, other Bible translations and/or dictionaries may be helpful.

Course fee: £20
Course reference: BSA6

Church History

THE REFORMATION

This bitesize 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 workbook.

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 Bible.

Course fee: £20
Course reference: BSA7

Life and Faith

DEMENTIA

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 study guide.

Course fee: £20
Course reference: BSA8

STARTER LEVEL COURSES

Biblical Studies - The Old Testament

'YOU ARE MY GOD': A PERSONAL JOURNEY THROUGH FIVE PSALMS OF PRAYER AND PRAISE

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 workbooks 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 Bible* or the *New International Version Bible*.

Course fee: £40
Course reference: S1

WALKING WITH GOD: LEARNING FROM THE LIVES OF FIVE OLD TESTAMENT CHARACTERS

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 workbook 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 Bible* or the *New International Version Bible*.

Course fee: £40
Course reference: S2

Biblical Studies - The New Testament

JOHN'S GOSPEL

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 provides you with an overview of the life of Jesus in John's Gospel.

Method of study and assessment: completion of workbook for each lesson.

Content: Five Lessons
Lesson 1: Who Is Jesus?
Lesson 2: Jesus in Action
Lesson 3: I Have Come in Order That You Might Have Life
Lesson 4: Teaching the Disciples
Lesson 5: A New Beginning

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

Course fee: £40
Course reference: S3

JESUS IN THE GOSPELS

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 provide you with an overview of the life of Jesus by looking at all of the Gospels.

Method of study and assessment: completion of workbooks 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 Bible* or the *New International Version Bible*.

Course fee: £40
Course reference: S4

THE STORY OF JESUS BY MARK

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 workbooks 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 Bible* or the *New International Version Bible*.

Course fee: £40
Course reference: S5

LEARNING FROM ANDREW – A FOLLOWER OF JESUS

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 workbooks 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 Bible* or the *New International Version Bible*.

Course fee: £40
Course reference: S9

ENCOUNTERS WITH JESUS

This course introduces you to five women who met with Jesus.

Method of study and assessment: completion of workbook for each lesson.

Content: Five Lessons
Lesson 1: Not Worth Noticing? The Widow in the Temple
Lesson 2: She'll Be Remembered
Lesson 3: The Woman Who Would Not Give Up
Lesson 4: Alone in the Crowd
Lesson 5: They Met at a Well

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

Course fee: £40
Course reference: S13

Biblical Studies - Old and New Testament

WOMEN IN THE STORY OF GOD'S PEOPLE: LEARNING FROM THE LIVES OF FIVE WOMEN IN THE BIBLE

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: completion of workbooks for 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 Bible* or the *New International Version Bible*.

Course fee: £40
Course reference: S6

(Lessons from both the above courses can be done individually as bitesize courses if you prefer)

Christian Life and Faith

FIRST STEPS IN THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

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 workbooks 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 Bible* or the *New International Version Bible*.

Course fee: £40
Course reference: S7

HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE: AN INTRODUCTION FOR NEW STUDENTS

This 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 workbooks 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: 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
Course reference: S8

Salvation Army Distinctiveness

DISCOVERING THE SALVATION ARMY

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 workbooks 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 Bible or the New International Version Bible.

Course fee: £40
Course reference: S11

World Religions

FINDING OUT ABOUT WORLD RELIGIONS: CHRISTIANITY

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

Method of study and assessment: completion of workbooks 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
Course reference: S12A

FINDING OUT ABOUT WORLD RELIGIONS: ISLAM

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

Method of study and assessment: completion of workbooks 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
Course reference: S12B

FINDING OUT ABOUT WORLD RELIGIONS: JUDAISM

This course introduces you to Judaism, the oldest religion that practices monotheism, which means belief in only one God.

Method of study and assessment: completion of workbooks 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
Course reference: S12C

FINDING OUT ABOUT WORLD RELIGIONS: SIKHISM

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 workbooks 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
Course reference: S12D

FOUNDATION LEVEL COURSES

Biblical Studies - The Old Testament

'THIS IS WHAT THE LORD SAYS': MESSAGES FROM OLD TESTAMENT PROPHETS

This course introduces you to the message of seven Old Testament 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 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. *The Lion Handbook to the Bible Fifth Revised Edition*. Oxford: Lion (2017)

Course fee: £60
Course reference: F1

IS THIS YOUR LIFE? OLD TESTAMENT STUDIES ON LIVING AND GROWING IN RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

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. *The Lion Handbook* to the Bible Fifth Revised Edition. Oxford: Lion (2017) and The New International Version Bible.

Course fee: £60
Course reference: F2

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

JESUS IN THE GOSPELS

This course aims to help you to explore the story of Jesus's life, ministry and death as told by the Gospel writers Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. You will be encouraged to think about the different ways in which they tell the same story, and how that 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. *The Lion Handbook to the Bible Fifth Revised Edition.* Oxford: Lion (2017)
It will be helpful if you have access to other resources to help you explore the gospels, such as a Bible dictionary or a Bible commentary.

Course fee: £60
Course reference: F3

THE BIRTH OF THE CHURCH

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. *The Lion Handbook to the Bible Fifth Revised Edition.* Oxford: Lion (2017) and the *New International Version Bible*.

Course fee: £60
Course reference: F4

Biblical Studies - Old and New Testaments

WOMEN IN THE STORY OF GOD'S PEOPLE: LEARNING FROM THE LIVES OF SIX BIBLICAL WOMEN

This course introduces you to six women, three of whom appear in the Old Testament and three in the New Testament. 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. *The Lion Handbook to the Bible Fifth Revised Edition*. Oxford: Lion (2017)
and the *New International Version Bible*.

Course fee: £60
Course reference: F5

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

Christian Life and Salvation Army Distinctiveness

'HEART TO GOD AND HAND TO MAN': EXPLORING THE BIBLICAL BASIS FOR CHRISTIAN SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

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 one 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: His 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 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
Course reference: F6

WE BELIEVE: AN INTRODUCTION TO SALVATION ARMY BELIEFS

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 Bible.

Course fee: £60
Course reference: F7

BELIEF IN ACTION: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE WORK OF THE SALVATION ARMY IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND IRELAND

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

Method of study and assessment: This Foundation 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
Course reference: F8

Study Skills

STUDY SKILLS: AN INTRODUCTION FOR NEW STUDENTS

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 practise 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
Course reference: F9

Christian Heritage

EXPLORING CHRISTIAN HERITAGE

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
Course Reference: F10

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

Ministry

PREACHING FOR BEGINNERS

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 listeners. 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 are a series of set exercises designed to be building blocks toward the writing of the two 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: Six lessons
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)* and *New International Version (New International Version)* (2011). Other reading for this course is suggested in the study guide.
All quotations from the Bible in this course are taken from the *NLT* unless otherwise stated.

Course fee: £60
Course reference: F11

LEADING WORSHIP FOR BEGINNERS

This course introduces the essential elements required for leading a worship service 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: 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: Six lessons
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 *NLT* and *New International Version Bible*.
All quotations from the Bible in this course are taken from the *NLT* unless otherwise stated.

Course fee: £60
Course reference: F12

LEADING A PRAYER MEETING

This course introduces the essential elements required for leading a prayer meeting through from start to finish.

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 a prayer meeting. It is important to complete these and it will be helpful to have a writing pad and paper to make notes as suggested.

Content: Six lessons
Lesson 1: Leading a Prayer Meeting
Lesson 2: Choosing the Theme - Contexts
Lesson 3: Planning the Prayer Meeting
Lesson 4: Creative Ways to Pray
Lesson 5: The Physical Prayer Space and the Mercy Seat
Lesson 6: The Prayer Meeting Leader's Inner Life

Reading: Translations of the Bible recommended for study include the NLT and New International Version Bible. All quotations from the Bible in this course are taken from the NLT unless otherwise stated.

Course fee: £60
Course reference: F13

LEADING A BIBLE STUDY

This course introduces the essential elements required for leading a Bible Study meeting from start to finish.

Method of study and assessment: There are six assignments designed to fulfil these aims and to enable the student to reflect more deeply into their own response to leading a group of people in studying God's Word.

Content: Six lessons
Lesson 1: The Leader's Attributes, Role and Principles
Lesson 2: Choosing a Theme
Lesson 3: Researching and Preparing Your Material
Lesson 4: The Study Format/Plan
Lesson 5: Awareness of Group Dynamics and Questions
Lesson 6: Lectio Divina & Other Appropriate Support and Resources

Reading: Translations of the Bible recommended for study include the NLT and New International Version Bible. All quotations from the Bible in this course are taken from the NLT unless otherwise stated.

Course fee: £60
Course reference: F14

AN INTRODUCTION TO PASTORAL CARE

This course aims to provide an introduction to the field of pastoral care. Throughout the 6 lessons it provides information, and asks for learner participation, in order to explore some historical, biblical and contemporary concepts which are also related to the learner's personal experience and/or ministry. This course also considers vital aspects that surround the practice of providing pastoral care within a faith-based context, such as the possible dangers involved and how to develop good practice.

Learning Outcomes: By the end of this course participants will have:
Begun to explore the nature of pastoral care in their own and a wider context
Considered the core influence of the example of Jesus in pastoral relationships
Explored what this might look like in contemporary pastoral practice
Begun to establish what skills would enhance their pastoral care and where they might be obtained
Reviewed the main facto rs involved in establishing a framework for safe practice
Established a plan for dealing with difficult conversations in the pastoral context

Method of study and assessment: There are six lessons.
Each lesson requires responses to facilitate the theory with practice and a 750 word assessment

Contents: Six lessons
Lesson 1: What is Pastoral Care?
Lesson 2: Biblical Examples of Pastoral Care, Particularly the Example of Jesus
Lesson 3: What Pastoral Care Might Look Like in Contemporary Ministry
Lesson 4: What Skills Are Needed to Practice Pastoral Care and How They Might Be Acquired
Lesson 5: How Pastoral Care Must Be Safe for Both Carer and Cared For
Lesson 6: What to Do with Difficult Conversations and Situations

Completing this course does not mean you are qualified in pastoral care.

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

Course fee: £60
Course Reference: F15

AN INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIAN SPIRITUAL FORMATION

This course aims to introduce Christian Spiritual Formation. Throughout the six lessons it provides information and asks for learner's participation, to explore some historical, biblical, and contemporary concepts, which are also related to the learner's personal experience and/or ministry.

Method of study and assessment: There are a series of exercises and also assignments designed to fulfil these aims for each lesson.

Content: Six lessons
Lesson 1: What is Spiritual Formation?
Lesson 2: What Does Spiritual Formation Mean for Me?
Lesson 3: What Does the Bible Say About Spiritual Formation?
Lesson 4: What Might Christian Spiritual Formation Look Like Today?
Lesson 5: What Might Help In the Process of Spiritual Formation?
Lesson 6: What Might the Next Steps Be for Me?

Completing this course does not mean you are qualified in Christian spiritual formation.

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

Course fee: £60
Course reference: F16

AWARD LEVEL COURSES

Biblical Studies - The Old Testament

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.

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:
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 Bible*. The basic textbook is: Drane, J. *Introducing the Old Testament*, Fourth Edition.
Oxford: Lion. (2019)

Course fee: £80
Course reference: A1A

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.

This course introduces you to the story of God's people, as recorded in the later part of 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:
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 Bible*.The basic textbook is: Drane, J. *Introducing the Old Testament*, Fourth Edition.
Oxford: Lion. (2019)

Course fee: £80
Course reference: A1B

A JOURNEY OF FAITH – INTRODUCING THE OLD TESTAMENT PSALMS

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 and Psalm 23 - Personal Prayers of Praise and Trust
Lesson 3: Psalm 65 and Psalm 72 - Communal Thanksgiving and Prayer for the King
Lesson 4: Psalm 73 and Psalm 78 - The Wisdom of the Righteous
Lesson 5: Psalm 95 and Psalm 97 - God Is King!
Lesson 6: Psalm 136 and 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 (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 Bible*. The basic textbook is Bullock Hassell, C. *Encountering the Book of Psalms*.
USA: Baker Academic (2019)

Course fee: £80
Course reference: A2

THE PROPHET – EZEKIEL

This course introduces you to the life and message of the prophet Ezekiel, helping you to 'tackle the parts they would otherwise ignore' (Taylor, J.B. *Ezekiel: Tyndale Old Testament Commentary No.22*). It will also introduce 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: 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. *Ezekiel: Tyndale Old Testament Commentary No.22* (1969) Ezekiel: *An Introduction and Commentary*, Inter-Varsity Press: Nottingham (1981)
and the *New International Version Bible*.

Course fee: £80
Course reference: A3

LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

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. 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 Fee, G.D. and Stuart, D. *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth* (Third Edition). USA: Zondervan (2003)
Additional reading is suggested in the study guide.

Course fee: £80
Course reference: A4

(Lessons from this course can be done individually as bitesize courses)

THE PROPHET – JEREMIAH

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 After All
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. *Jeremiah and Lamentations: An Introduction and Commentary.* Volume 21, Inter-Varsity Press: Nottingham (2013) and The *New International Version Bible*.

Course fee: £80
Course reference: A5

Biblical Studies - The New Testament

JESUS IN THE SYNOPTIC GOSPELS

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 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:
Chapters 1 - 9 in Drane, J. *Introducing the New Testament*, Fourth Edition. Oxford: Lion Hudson (2019)
Stanton, G. *The Gospels and Jesus*. (Oxford Bible Series) UK: Oxford UNew International Versionersity Press (2002)
and The *New International Version Bible*.

Course fee: £80
Course reference: A6

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.

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 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 basic textbook is: Drane, J. *Introducing the New Testament*, Fourth Edition. Oxford: Lion (2019) and The *New International Version Bible*.

Course fee: £80
Course reference: A7A

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.

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 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 basic textbook is: Drane, J. *Introducing the New Testament*, Fourth Edition. Oxford: Lion (2019) and the *New International Version Bible*.

Course fee: £80
Course reference: A7B

JOHN'S GOSPEL

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 basic textbook is: Kruse, C.G. Tyndale *New Testament Commentaries* Volume 4 John: An Introduction and Commentary. London: Inter-Varsity Press (2017) and the *New International Version Bible*.

Course fee: £80
Course reference: A8

THE FIRST LETTER OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

This course will introduce you to the content and context of 1 Corinthians. You will also be encouraged to reflect on how 1 Corinthians speaks to our lives today.

Learning Outcomes: At the end of this course you should be able to:
Identify key aspects and themes of 1 Corinthians.
Explain your understanding of the ministry and teaching of Paul in Corinth.
Explain the relevance of Paul's teaching to our lives today.

Content: Six Lessons
Lesson 1: Introducing Paul's First Letter to the Church at Corinth
Lesson 2: Caring for the Family – Tackling Causes of Division: 1 Corinthians 1:1 – 6:20
Lesson 3: Questions From a Challenged Community
Lesson 4: Insights into Life In the Church at That Time: Challenges In Fellowship, Worship and Witness
Lesson 5: Insights into Paul's Gospel in This Letter
Lesson 6: Insights into Paul's Ministry in This Letter

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 up to 1500 words, which will require you to include references and bibliographies.

Reading: The basic textbook is: Schreiner, T.R. *1 Corinthians: An Introduction and Commentary*. London: Inter-Varsity Press (2018) and the *New International Version Bible*.

Course fee: £80
Course reference: A9

Salvation Army Distinctiveness

SALVATION ARMY HISTORY: PART 1 (1895 – 1912)

This course introduces you to the history of The Salvation Army from its beginnings in 1885 to the death of William Booth in 1912. We will be covering this period over the course of six lessons. Each lesson 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 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
Course reference: A10A

SALVATION ARMY HISTORY – PART 2 (1912–1978)

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 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
Course reference: A10B

Salvationist Life, Faith and Belief

THE ADVENTURE OF DOCTRINE – PART A: A STUDY OF SALVATIONIST DOCTRINES 1–6

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 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.

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, A. (Gen. Ed.) *The New Lion Handbook: Christian Belief*. Oxford: Lion Hudson (2006) and the *New International Version Bible*.

Further reading is suggested in the study guide, including:
McGrath, A. *Christian Theology: An Introduction*. Oxford: Blackwell (2010)
Milne, B. *Know the Truth, A Handbook of Christian Belief*, Third Edition. Leicester: IVP (2014)

Some topics may challenge your thinking. It is our hope that you will seek out further resources in order to deepen your understanding, particularly in these areas.

Course fee: £80
Course reference: A11A

THE ADVENTURE OF DOCTRINE – PART B: A STUDY OF SALVATIONIST DOCTRINES 7–11

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 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..Its Features (Doctrine 7)
Lesson 2: The Adventure of Salvation..Its 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 challenge your thinking.

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 Bible*. Alongside *The Salvation Army Handbook of Doctrine* you should read McGrath, A. (Gen. Ed.) *The New Lion Handbook: Christian Belief*. Oxford: Lion Hudson.(2006) (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, A. *Christian Theology: an Introduction*. Oxford: Blackwell (2010), *Milne, B. Know the Truth, A Handbook of Christian Belief*, Third Edition. Leicester: IVP (2014), McGrath, A, *Belief for Everyone* London: SPCK

It is our hope that you will seek out further resources in order to deepen your understanding, particularly in these areas.

Course fee: £80
Course reference: A11B

SALVATIONIST LIFE AND FAITH

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 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 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: 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, A (Gen. Ed.) *The New Lion Handbook: Christian Belief*. Oxford: Lion Hudson (2006)(if out of print, the 2011 edition of Theology: The Basics, also by McGrath, could be used as an alternative), Street, R. *Called to be God's People*. London: The Salvation Army (1999) (available from Salvationist Publishing and Supplies Ltd.), and the *New International Version Bible*.

Course fee: £80
Course reference: A12

Church History

HISTORY OF THE EARLY CHURCH

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 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, H. *The Penguin History of the Church Vol. 1: The Early Church*. London: Penguin (1993), McGrath, A. *Christian History An Introduction*. Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell (2013). Further reading is suggested in the study guide.

Course fee: £80
Course reference: A13

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

This course encourages you to engage with the historical context and the rich depths of the theology of the Book of Revelation.

Learning outcomes: At the end of this course it is hoped that you will have an understanding of what an amazing gift the Book of Revelation is for the whole Church and individual Christians, as well as those exploring the validity of the Christian faith.

Content: There are six lessons which delve into some of the most important themes in the Book of Revelation.
Lesson 1: The Theology of the Book of Revelation – Encountering Christ the King Today
Lesson 2: The Ecclesiology of the Book of Revelation – the Seven Churches… They Were Just Like Us
Lesson 3: The Imagery of the Book of Revelation – An Amazing Glimpse into the Throne Room
Lesson 4: The Judgements of the Book of Revelation – Tempered by Mercy
Lesson 5: The Spirituality of the Book of Revelation – How to Live as Subversives in 'Babylon'
Lesson 6: The Eschatology of the Book of Revelation - It's a Book of Hope

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: Gorman. M.J. *Reading Revelation Responsibly* Cascade Books (2011)

Course fee: £80
Course reference: A14

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q How can I get advice on which course to take or if I need help when I receive my course materials?

A Contact Open Learning - details are given on the Enrolment Form, at the front of this course directory.

Q What should I do if I can't afford the full course costs?

A 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.

Q What is the timescale for completing assignments?

A We would expect a full course (ie not shorter bitesize courses) 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.

Q When will I find out who my tutor is?

A When you receive feedback after your first lesson.

Q Can I find out information about my tutor?

A There are details of our tutors at the back of this course directory. Our tutors are made up of retired and serving officers (ministers).

Q What if something prevents me from studying for a while?

A 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.

Q What if I receive the course materials and, having looked at them, decide that the course is not right for me?

A 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.

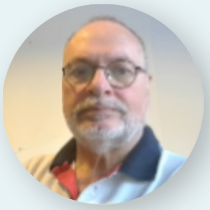
OUR TUTORS

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. He has an MA in Religious Studies.

CARL is an officer. His background is from a non-church-attending family. He came to faith later in life. He is married, 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 BA (Hons) in Theology and Ministry.

CHARLES was a Salvation Army officer who retired at the end of 2017. He is married and has three married children, and five grandchildren. He has BA and MBA degrees, as well as a diploma in Theology.

CHRIS became a Salvation Army officer in 1985, after working in the music industry. He taught at William Booth College for over twenty years, before his retirement in 2022. He has a BA(Hons) and a Cambridge Diploma in Religious Studies. His interests include playing and listening to music, reading, watching sport and looking after his two grandchildren.



CLIFF has been a Salvation Army officer since 1981, serving in a variety of places in the UK. He is married, with three children and seven grandchildren. He has a BA in Pastoral Care with Psychology. He is a sports enthusiast - an ardent fan of Liverpool FC, Kent County Cricket, Sale Sharks Rugby Union, and combines that love of sports with ministry as chaplain at a rugby club.

DAVID has been an officer mainly working in social services and training. For seven years he worked overseas, in Hong Kong and Singapore. Since retiring in 2014 he has enjoyed working as a tutor with Open Learning. He says that having a small part in a student's development, in both knowledge and understanding of the subject they are studying, is a real privilege. He holds both an MA and BA in Social Work and Social Work Education.

EMMA was a corps officer and has been working with Open Learning since January 2020. She has a BA(Ed) in Religious Studies and an MA in Pastoral Theology.

GRAYSON is a retired officer. He is a widower, with four children and five grandchildren. He holds a BA(Ed) and a MTh in Preaching.

KATHRYN is married, with two grown-up children and two grandchildren. She has an MA in Theology and Education.

KEIRA is married, with 18-year-old twins. She has a BA (Hons) in History and Religious Studies and a BA (Hons) in Psychology with Pastoral Care. In her spare time she loves to read, travel and climb mountains.

LYNETTE has worked for The Salvation Army in a community role for many 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 BA (Hons) in Theology and an MA in Theology and Women's Spirituality. She is passionate about adult education and encouraging people to study.

MELVYN is married, with three grown-up children and nine grandchildren and has a BA and PGDip in preaching.

TRACY is a corps officer and holds a BA (Hons) in Pastoral Care with Psychology and has a PGCert in advanced chaplaincy. In her spare time she loves to read and take walks.

BRIAN served as a corps officer, at the training college and was in divisional leadership. He is now retired. He is married to Liv, a Norwegian national. Previously widowed, he has four children and four grandchildren. Brian holds a Master's degree in Pastoral Theology and Batchelor degrees in Humanities with Religious Studies and Pastoral Care with Psychology.

JO has experience as a Corps Officer, a tutor for William Booth College and a Chaplain within Homelessness Services. She has two incredible children, loves to hike, dance and play games with friends. She has a BA(hons) in English Literature and a PGCE in Further Education.

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19 - S6 Women in the story of God's people: Learning from the lives of five women in the Bible

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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 completing the workbook.

Light and life
What does John 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 1:3.

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 about the darkness in relation to the 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. *The Lion Handbook to the Bible Fifth Revised Edition*. Oxford: Lion. (2017)
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 - 21and 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:
Kevin Kruse pages 1-43 – Introduction and overview
John Drane's book, *Introducing the New Testament* Fourth Edition Oxford: Lion (2019), 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 lead to the realisation 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 *New Testament Theology: The Theology of the Gospel of John.*
Cambridge UNew International Versionersity Press: Cambridge, (1995) 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. 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.

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

Starter Level: How to Study the Bible: An Introduction for New Students (Course Ref. S8)
Foundation Level: Study Skills: An Introduction for New Students (Course Ref. F9)
Award Level: Listening to God's Word (Course Ref. A4)

EXPLORING CHRISTIAN LIFE

Starter Level: Praying the Jesus Prayer (Course Ref. BSS1)
Starter Level: Please Teach Us to Pray: Praying the prayer that Jesus taught (Course Ref. BSS4)
Starter Level: Doubting Faith (Course Ref. BSS5)
Starter Level: First Steps in the Christian Faith (Course Ref. S7)

EXPLORING THE NEW TESTAMENT

Starter Level: Jesus in the Gospels (Course Ref. S4)
Foundation Level: Jesus in the Gospels (Course Ref. F3)
Award Level: Either Introducing the New Testament Part A: the Gospels and Acts (Course Ref. A7A) and Part B: New Testament Letters (Course Ref. A7B); or Jesus in the Synoptic Gospels (Course Ref. A6)
and John's Gospel (Course Ref. A8)

EXPLORING THE OLD TESTAMENT

Starter Level: Walking with God: Learning from the lives of five Old Testament characters (Course Ref. S2)
Foundation Level: This is what the Lord says: Messages from the Old Testament prophets (Course Ref. F1)
Award Level: Either Ezekiel (Course Ref. A3) and Jeremiah (Course Ref. A5) or Old Testament Story. Part A: Genesis to the Fall of Israel (Course Ref. A1A) and Old Testament Story. Part B: From Isaiah to the Period Between the Testaments (Course Ref. A1B)

WOMEN WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE

Starter Level: Encounters with Jesus (Course Ref. S13)
Starter Level: Women in the Story of God's People (Course Ref. S6)
Foundation Level: Women in the Story of God's People: Learning from the Lives of Six Bible Women (Course Ref. F5)

THE HISTORY OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Foundation Level: The Birth of the Church (Course Ref. F4)
Award Level: The Reformation (Course Ref. BSA7)
Award Level: The History of the Early Church (Course Ref. A13)

THE STORY OF THE SALVATION ARMY

Starter Level: Discovering The Salvation Army (Course Ref. S11)
Foundation Level: Heart to God, Hand to Man: Exploring the biblical basis for Christian social and community service (Course Ref. F6)
Award Level: The Salvation Army History: Part 1 (1895 – 1912) (Course Ref. A10A)
and The Salvation Army History: Part 2 (1912 – 1978) (Course Ref. A10B)

NOTES