

Way of Life Bible College

Course Syllabus

Course: Understanding the Bible for Yourself

Credit Hours: 2

Instructor: David W. Cloud

Videos for this course can be found on the Media List at <https://www.wayoflife.org/media/>

Class Description: This updated course is expanded and improved. It deals with choosing the right Bible, how to establish a habit of daily Bible study, rules of Bible interpretation, methods of study (a practical seven-fold plan for studying any Bible passage), using Bible study tools, using Bible commentaries, using Bible study software, and having a plan of lifelong study.

The course is extremely practical and hands on. We explain exactly how to get started in Bible study and how to move forward step by step. It is a course for new Bible students as well as for old.

Texts Required for class:

The King James Bible

Understanding the Bible for Yourself by David W. Cloud

Outcomes—At the end of the course, all students will be able to:

1. Understand how to choose the right Bible.
2. Establish a habit of Bible study each day.
3. Identify the rules of Bible interpretation.
4. Gain confidence in using Bible study tools, commentaries, and study software.
5. Develop a plan of Bible study that will last for a lifetime.

Evaluation—the class grade will be broken up in the following manner:

Tests (2) – 60%

Quizzes (5) – 25%

Course Project – 15%

90–100%	A	70–79%	C
80–89%	B	0–69%	D (Failing)

Validation:

Outcome 1. Students read *Understanding the Bible for Yourself* completely and answer all review questions.

Outcome 2. Students take diligent notes during class over the spiritual requirements, rules of interpretation, sound method of Bible study, and much more.

Outcome 3. Students take tests and quizzes over the material covered in class and read outside of class.

Outcome 5. Students conduct a Bible study project on a topic of their choice that will demonstrate their understanding of correct Bible study.

There are two options for taking this class. They are the following:

- **Slower Pace-15 Week Option**

This option takes a total of 15 weeks and has regular assignments two times every week: Tuesdays and Thursdays.

- **Advanced-One Month Option**

This option takes a total of 4 weeks and has regular assignments six times every week: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. The assignments for this option sometimes combine two of the assignments from the slower pace option into one day so that the student can complete the class in a month.

-----Slower Pace-15 Week Option-----

Course Outline:

Week Topics

- 1 Author's Relationship with the Bible/ Intro/ Confidence in the Bible/ You Must Use the Right Bible
- 2 You Must Use the Right Bible/ Why You Need to Study the Bible
- 3 Spiritual Requirements for Bible Study
- 4 Habit of Daily Bible Study/ **Test 1**
- 5 Sound Rules of Bible Interpretation
- 6 Sound Rules of Bible Interpretation
- 7 **Test 2 (Final)** (covers all material from beginning of course)/ Sound Methods of Bible Study
- 8 Sound Methods of Bible Study
- 9 Sound Methods of Bible Study/ Best Bible Study Tools
- 10 Best Bible Study Tools/ Bible Commentaries
- 11 Bible Commentaries/ Extensive Knowledge of the Bible
- 12 Bible Software/ Conclusion/ Bible Study Projects
- 13 Bible Study Projects
- 14 Bible Study Projects
- 15 Bible Study Projects/ **Bible Study Project Due**

Weeks **Assignments (these are to be completed *before* the videos each day)**

**The pages read each day will not always correspond with the videos watched. In most cases the student will read ahead of the videos.

Weeks	Tuesday	Thursday
1	Pages 1-13 Video 1 (Introduction)	Pages 14-27 Video 2 (Why Study the Bible?)
2	Pages 28-41 Video 3 (Spiritual Requirements pt 1)	Pages 42-60 Video 4 (Spiritual Requirements pt 2)
3	Pages 61-73 Quiz 1—John 8:31-32 Video 5 (Rules of Interpretation pt 1)	Pages 73-86 Video 6 (Interpretation pt 2)
4	Pages 87-102 Video 7 (Interpretation pt 3)	Test 1- Intro-Habit of Daily Bible Study
5	Pages 103-122 Video 8 (Interpretation pt 4)	Pages 122-140 Video 9 (Interpretation pt 5)
6	Pages 140-161 Quiz 2—Matthew 5:18 Video 10 (Interpretation pt 6)	Pages 161-177 Video 11 (Interpretation pt 7)
7	Test 2- Final (New material: Sound Rules of Bible Interpretation) (Cumulative)	Pages 178-189 Video 12 (Interpretation pt 8)
8	Pages 189-200 Video 13 (Interpretation pt 9)	Pages 200-212 Video 14 (Sound Methods of Bible Study pt 1)
9	Pages 212-224 Quiz 3—Proverbs 13:4 Video 15 (Methods of Bible St. pt 2)	Pages 225-237 Video 16 (Methods of Bible St. pt 3)
10	Page 237-244 Video 17 (Methods of Bible St. pt 4)	Pages 245-254
11	Pages 254-263 Video 18 (Methods of Bible St. pt 5)	Pages 264-273 Video 19 (Methods of Bible St. pt 6)
12	Pages 274-281 Quiz 4—2 Timothy 2:15 Video 20 (Methods of Bible St. pt 7)	Pages 282-292 Video 21 (Bible Study Tools)
13	Pages 292-304 Video 22 (Bible Commentaries pt 1)	Pages 304-311 Video 23 (Bible Commentaries pt 2)
14	Pages 312-320 Quiz 5—Acts 17:11 Video 24 (A Challenge)	Pages 320-330 Video 25 (Conclusion)
15	Pages 330-340	Bible Study Project

-----Advanced-One Month Option-----

Course Outline:**Week Topics**

- 1 Author's Relationship with the Bible/ Intro/ Confidence in the Bible/ You Must Use the Right Bible/ Why Study the Bible/ Spiritual Requirements for Bible Study
- 2 Habit of Daily Bible Study/ **Test 1**/ Sound Rules of Bible Interpretation
- 3 **Test 2 (Final)**/ Sound Methods of Bible Study/ Bible Study Tools/ Bible Commentaries/ Extensive Knowledge of the Bible/ Bible Software/ Conclusion
- 4 Bible Study Projects

Weeks**Assignment**

Wk	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	Pages 1-13 Video 1 Video 2	Pages 14-27 Video 3	Pages 28-41 Video 4 Quiz 1— Jn 8:31-32	Pages 42-60 Video 5	Pages 61-73 Video 6	Pages 73-86 Video 7
2	Pages 87-102 Video 8	Test 1-Intro-Habit of Daily Bible Study Video 9	Pages 103-122 Video 10 Quiz 2— Mt 5:18	Pages 122-140 Video 11	Pages 140-161 Video 12	Pages 161-177 Video 13
3	Test 2-Final Video 14	Pages 178-200 Video 15	Pages 200-224 Video 16 Quiz 3— Prov 13:4	Pages 225-244 Video 17	Pages 245-263 Video 18	Pages 264-281 Video 19 Quiz 4— 2 Tm 2:15
4	Pages 282-304 Video 20	Pages 304-311 Video 21	Pages 312-320 Video 22 Quiz 5— Acts 17:11	Pages 320-330 Video 23	Pages 330-340 Video 24	Video 25 Bible Study Project

Details of Course Assignments:

- **Videos**

Almost every day, the student is required to watch the *Understanding the Bible for Yourself* video lessons. He must have the reading completed, along with any quizzes or projects submitted, before the video is to be watched. He must take diligent notes during these video sessions.

- **Reading Assignments**

Students are given reading assignments for most days and must complete the assignments along with answering the corresponding questions before each lesson begins. In most cases, the student will be reading ahead of the lessons he is to watch.

- **Quizzes (5)**

Quizzes will be given on five Mondays (*for the slower pace only*) scattered throughout the semester and will consist of an assigned memory verse. The student must write out the verses completely.

- **Bible Study Project**

This course will have one project due the last day of the semester. This project will help the student practice studying the Bible for himself the correct way. The student must pick from one of the following topics found in the back of the book:

- Study Key Bible Passages (pgs. 292-296)
- Study Key Bible Topics (pgs. 296-304)
- Study Individual Books of the Bible (pgs. 305-308)
- Study People of the Bible (pgs. 309-311)
- Study the Parables of the Bible (pgs. 312-320)

The student must read the pages that correspond with the Bible Study he has chosen and pick one of the given suggestions for that topic from the book. Each student must study his Bible carefully and correctly and compose a 4-5 double spaced paper on the topic of his choice following the steps listed in the description of the study. The student must show he understands how to correctly study his Bible, pay attention to details, and should include lessons he has learned from his study. In the conclusion of his paper, the student should include how he has grown from his study and what topic he wishes to study next.

- **Tests (2)**

The tests will only cover the first half of the book while the project will put into application the second half of the book. There will be a total of two tests taken during this semester. Including certain review questions and potentially extra important information found in the reading, the tests will consist of a section of short answer questions. The tests are used to measure how much the student has retained over the course. Test 1 and 2 will both be cumulative and cover all the information learned up to that point from the book only. The information learned in the videos will not be covered in the tests.

Plagiarism Statement: Plagiarism is something that is not tolerated at Way of Life Bible College. Any material taken from another must be clearly documented.