

FBC Bible Interpretation Course Overview

Section 1: Letter from the Chairman

Dear leaders and future leaders of FBC,

Paul's exhortation to Timothy is to "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who ***correctly handles the word of truth.***"

The Bible, being God's word, is foundational in all that we believe in our Christian faith and how we conduct ourselves in life. We are told to search out God's wisdom in His word as if we look for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure (Proverbs 2:4). In order to do that, we need to be equipped with the right tools to dig deep and mine the gems that are buried within. It's going to take some effort. But I can assure you that the reward will be great, not only for yourselves as students of the Bible, but as you share and teach others in your home, life groups and other areas of ministry.

The COE has commissioned Dr Kyle Essary from MBTS to design and conduct a Biblical Interpretation course for the leaders of FBC. A graduate from Dallas Theological Seminary, Dr. Kyle Essary grew up in the United States and has also lived in Yemen, China, and for most of the past decade- Malaysia. He serves as a lecturer in biblical studies in Southeast Asia and has served with several churches and church plants in both the US and Malaysia. He holds a PhD in biblical studies with a particular focus on Hebrew narratives and biblical theology.

Available from 11th September 2021, the course will be a self-serviced, self-paced online course and pitched at a level that most people will find it easy to follow. This will allow more people to access the material and participants will be able to *study at their own pace*. However, we expect most people to complete it within a year.

As a start, the course will be made available to everyone currently serving in the AOL or serving as a Life Group leader. This course will be compulsory unless you have previously attended something similar before. Even if you have had training in this area, you are welcomed to take it as a refresher. By making it mandatory, we are ensuring we ***systematically*** provide ***formal*** training to our people and account for their progress.

Kai Xian will be the course moderator and will be responsible for signing you up, making sure the contents are delivered on time and that you receive all the help you need. Details of the Bible Interpretation Course can be found in this PDF.

I pray and trust that God will bless this endeavour as we seek to "to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ" (Eph 4:12)

In His Bond,
Yew Lum

Section 2: Bio of Dr. Kyle



Dr. Kyle Essary grew up in the United States, although he has also lived in Yemen, China, and for most of the past decade- Malaysia. He is married to Jamie, and God has blessed them with four children- Andrew (16), Abby (13), Anna (11), A.J. (9). He serves as a lecturer in biblical studies in Southeast Asia. He has served with a number of churches and church plants in both the US and Malaysia. He holds a PhD in biblical studies with a particular focus on Hebrew narratives and biblical theology. Kyle loves food - nasi lemak, shwarma, chicken-fried steak, but most of all, ayam buah keluak!

Section 3: Syllabus

How to Interpret the Bible?

Duration: Sept 2021-Apr 2022 @ First Baptist Subang
Lecturer: Dr. Kyle Essary
Contact: KyleEssary@fastmail.com

Purpose of the Course

The purpose of this course is to help equip leaders at First Baptist to understand and love God's word better. This course will enable students to create better lessons, studies, or sermons. Students will better understand how to observe, interpret, and apply the biblical text.

Course Format

Each study session will involve three activities—reading a text, watching a video, and answering some questions.

- **Read the Materials**

Each session, materials should be read before watching the weekly video. These will come from *Grasping God's Word* by J. Scott Duvall and Daniel Hays. This is a well-respected and easily found textbook. **Be sure to acquire the textbook and not the workbook.**

1. Either the 3rd or 4th edition of the textbook are fine for this class. There is also a Chinese version that is also suitable for those who read Chinese.
2. The textbook is commonly used and can be found at stores like Evangel, Canaanland, or SUFES.
3. The book is also available in various digital formats:
 - a. Amazon Kindle:
<https://www.amazon.com/Grasping-Gods-Word-Fourth-Hands-ebook/dp/B085XNNN8B/>
 - b. Logos:
<https://www.logos.com/product/190904/grasping-gods-word-a-hands-on-approach-to-reading-interpreting-and-applying-the-bible-4th-ed>
 - c. Zondervan (ebook):
<https://www.zondervan.com/9780310109181/grasping-gods-word-fourth-edition/>
4. The book is also available at outlets such as Book Depository, but it may take some time to arrive in Malaysia. These materials will deal with the topic addressed in the upcoming session's video. Thus, you need to read *prior* to watching the video for the session.

- **Watch the Video**

Every session, Dr. Kyle will prepare a video between 1-2 hours long. The video will focus on additional topics outside the reading, go more in-depth on some topics from the reading, or give Dr. Kyle's perspective on the topic for the session. The videos will include discussion, as well as opportunities to think more deeply about the topic and apply it.

- **Take the Quiz**

Each session will have a brief quiz related to the session's topic. The questions will be (1) multiple choice, (2) matching, or (3) drop-down choice. The quizzes will be available online when the weekly video session becomes available.

Q&A Sessions

There will be five scheduled Q&A sessions with Dr. Kyle to cover the topics from the previous few weeks. These will be on Saturdays from 8:30-10:30pm per the schedule below.

Schedule of the Course

Date	Topic	Reading
11 Sept 2021	Purpose of Biblical Interpretation & Translations	N/A
25 Sept 2021	Scripture and Sentences	GGW ch. 3
9 Oct 2021	Paragraphs and Discourses Q&A Session 1	GGW ch. 4
23 Oct 2021	Historical-Cultural Background	GGW ch. 6
6 Nov 2021	Literary Context & Word Studies	GGW ch. 8-9
20 Nov 2021	Where is meaning found? Q&A Session 2	GGW ch. 7 & 10
4 Dec 2021	Application	GGW ch. 13
18 Dec 2021	Interpreting Letters	GGW ch. 14
TBD	Q&A Session 3	
15 Jan 2022	Interpreting Gospels & Acts	GGW ch. 15
29 Jan 2022	Interpreting Revelation	GGW ch. 17
12 Feb 2022	Interpreting Narrative Q&A Session 4	GGW ch. 18
26 Feb 2022	Interpreting Law (Torah)	GGW ch. 9
12 Mac 2022	Interpreting Poetry	GGW ch. 20
26 Mac 2022	Interpreting Prophecy Q&A Session 5	GGW ch. 21
9 Apr 2022	Interpreting Wisdom	GGW ch. 22

Zoom ID for Q&A Sessions

Dates: **9 Oct 2021, 20 Nov 2021, TBD, 12 Feb 2022, 26 Mar 2022**

Time: 8.30pm-10.30pm (GMT+8)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95308533603?pwd=R00venphanRkcjllaFo0aldSS1VYQ>

T09 Meeting ID: 953 0853 3603

Passcode: 404836

Section 4: FAQ

1) Is this mandatory?

Yes, please see the letter from Chairman Yew Lum above. If you have taken such sources from seminaries, please write an email to fbc.wordcomesalive@gmail.com to request an exemption.

2) How do I view the lessons?

Lessons and assignments will be uploaded on the FBC site under CBTS:

<https://fbc.com.my/christian-based-theological-studies/>

password is: cbts

3) How much time are we expected to spend for each lesson?

A new lesson will be uploaded bi-weekly on a Saturday, after every 3 lessons, there will be a live Q&A with the lecturer, Dr. Kyle. It is estimated the committed time is around 4 hours every 2 weeks. More specific details can be found in the pdf attached, which has the full syllabus.

If you have other commitments, busy periods, please write an email to fbc.wordcomesalive@gmail.com on when you think you can complete the assignments.