

# FIRST PRINCIPLES

Instructor: Dave Helm

## DESCRIPTION

This course introduces some of the foundational convictions and skills for Bible teaching. The discussions on convictions renew one's commitment to expository Bible teaching and offer fresh motivation. The skills presented provide principles that allow the Bible teacher to more clearly listen to what the text itself communicates.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of this Course:

- Students will grow in their commitment to expository Bible teaching.
- Students will improve the quality of their own study and preparation for teaching by listening more carefully to the text of Scripture.
- Students will become more confident in interpreting and teaching a Bible passage because of their increasing skill in allowing the Scripture inform and shape their lessons/sermons.
- Students will allow the taught Word itself to inform their lives in ways consistent with the reasons the Holy Spirit saw fit to include them in Scripture.
- Students will be able to more appropriately apply God's Word to the lives of God's people today.

## COURSE FORMAT

This course is divided into two primary components:

- The first component is *instruction* for the student's apprehension of convictions, skills, and principles for studying and teaching the Bible. The instruction component is delivered through the lectures. Students should complete the *Study Questions* while, or immediately after, watching the video instructions.
- The second component is *practice*. Students will independently apply some of the skills and principles taught in the course. This is done by completing the *Sermon Preparation Worksheet* for some or all of the passages assigned for each lesson. Students will then present their work (as an *outline*, *message* or *sermon*—this will be determined by your group coordinator) in a group for discussion and analysis aimed at improving each student's work. For help on completing the *Sermon Preparation Worksheet* see the *Sermon Preparation Worksheet Guide*.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Each student is expected to:

- Attentively view all video lectures and thoughtfully complete the written study

questions.

- Prepare outlines or sermons or messages for each practice text, employing skills taught in the lectures.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

This course consists of 8 lessons.

<i>Staying on the Line</i> Lesson 1	View INSTRUCTION #1 (Dave Helm) Discuss/Write <i>Study Questions</i> for INSTRUCTION #1 <i>Sermon Preparation Worksheet</i> – Luke 9:18-27
<i>Pathway for Preparation</i> Lesson 2	View INSTRUCTION #2 (Dave Helm) Discuss/Write <i>Study Questions</i> for INSTRUCTION #2 <i>Sermon Preparation Worksheet</i> – Nehemiah 8:1-12
<i>Structure</i> Lesson 3	View INSTRUCTION #3 (Dave Helm) Discuss/Write <i>Study Questions</i> for INSTRUCTION #3 <i>Sermon Preparation Worksheet</i> – *Ephesians 3:14-21; Mark 5; Psalm 150  *Please note: instead of completing the entire <i>Sermon Preparation Worksheet</i> for all three passages, complete only the first question (dealing with structure) for each of these three texts (above). This gives you the opportunity to practice using the strategies presented in the lesson to find structure in each of the three text types (discourse, narrative, and poetry).
<i>Context</i> Lesson 4	View INSTRUCTION #4 (Dave Helm) Discuss/Write <i>Study Questions</i> for INSTRUCTION #4 <i>Sermon Preparation Worksheet</i> – Amos 2:4-16
<i>Melodic Line</i> Lesson 5	View INSTRUCTION #5 (Dave Helm) Discuss/Write <i>Study Questions</i> for INSTRUCTION #5 <i>Sermon Preparation Worksheet</i> – Nahum 1:2-8
<i>Text and Framework</i> Lesson 6	View INSTRUCTION #6 (Dave Helm) Discuss/Write <i>Study Questions</i> for INSTRUCTION #6 <i>Sermon Preparation Worksheet</i> – Philippians 4:10-20
<i>Seeing Jesus</i> Lesson 7	View INSTRUCTION #7 (Dave Helm) Discuss/Write <i>Study Questions</i> for INSTRUCTION #7 <i>Sermon Preparation Worksheet</i> – 1 Peter 2:11-25

*The Bible for Life*  
Lesson 8

View INSTRUCTION #8 (Dave Helm)  
Discuss/Write *Study Questions* for INSTRUCTION #8  
*Sermon Preparation Worksheet* – Ephesians 6:10-20

#### COURSE RESOURCES

Beale, G.K., *Handbook on the New Testament Use of the Old Testament: Exegesis and Interpretation*, Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2012.

Caird, G.B., *The Language and Imagery of the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1980.

Chapell, Bryan, *Christ-Centered Preaching: Redeeming the Expository Sermon*, Second Edition. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2005.

Clowney, Edmund P., *Preaching Christ in All of Scripture*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2003.

Goldsworthy, Graeme, *According to Plan: The Unfolding Revelation of God in the Bible*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2002.

Goldsworthy, Graeme, *Christ-Centered Biblical Theology: Hermeneutical Foundations and Principles*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2012.

Goldsworthy, Graeme, *Preaching the Whole Bible as Christian Scripture: The Application of Biblical Theology to Expository Preaching*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000.

Roberts, Vaughan, *God's Big Picture: Tracing the Storyline of the Bible*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2006.

Scharf, Greg R., *Prepared to Preach: God's Work and Ours in Proclaiming His Word*. Fearn, Scotland: Christian Focus, 2005.

Spurgeon, Charles H., *Lectures to My Students: Complete and Unabridged*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1954.