

Course Title: God's Unfolding Story

Course Format: online course (site: <https://acsieu.org/moodle>)

Course Language: English

Participants: K-12 teachers

Length of Course: 9 weeks (2-3 hours/week plus reading)

Instructor: Roslyn Barnes

Course Description

This course explores the unified and unfolding nature of the biblical narrative through its significant events, characters and themes. Participants will read selected portions of Scripture, and consider how they fit together as a whole. This will be supported by readings from a succinct and carefully designed text as well as summary videos, and interaction with other participants in an asynchronous online learning environment. The course concludes with an opportunity for students to summarize and clarify their learning through designing a presentation that could be used to share the narrative with students of the age group they interact with the most in their school.

Course Purpose

An understanding of the biblical meta-narrative is important for teachers who wish to integrate the subject matter they are teaching and their classroom practice with a biblical worldview. This course is designed to provide such a framework for teachers who have not had previous study or training in biblical theology. Participants will be encouraged to discover and reflect rather than being dependent on direct instruction. Learning with and from other participants in the course provides opportunities for considering differing perspectives on the topics being studied.

Course Objectives

Students will...

- 1) Develop an understanding of the Bible as a unified account of God and His world.
- 2) Trace the unfolding of major themes throughout the biblical narrative.
- 3) Explain the role that key figures in the biblical narrative played in God's unfolding plan of salvation, and how those figures point to the person and work of Jesus.
- 4) Identify ways in which the major themes of the biblical narrative impact the teacher's thinking about and practice of education.
- 5) Share what they are learning from the Bible and interact with the insights of other course participants.
- 6) Collaborate with fellow course participants to develop a presentation that could be used to outline the biblical narrative to students.

Course Outline

Week	Scripture Reading	Focus Topic	Key Figures	Other Reading	Student Activities
1	Genesis 1-11	Beginnings: Created for blessing.	Adam	“The Doubter’s Guide to the Bible” Chapters 1 & 2. “The Bible Project” Gen 1-11 video (Torah Series I)	What themes or key ideas/themes* emerge in these opening chapters of the Bible that you know are (or expect will be) developed further in the biblical narrative? (Objectives 1, 2, 5) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Choose one theme and describe it in a forum post. Refer to specific verses from Gen1-11. - Respond to the ideas of at least two other participants by commenting on their posts and/or asking questions.
2	Genesis 12, 17, 22, 27-28, 39-42, 45, 50:15-21.	God’s People: Chosen to be a blessing.	Abraham Joseph	“The Doubter’s Guide to the Bible” Chapter 3. “The Bible Project” video Gen 12-50 (Torah Series II)	How can God’s people be involved in the “spiritual, social and physical” restoration promised by God to Abraham? (Objectives 2, 4, 5) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Share your thoughts in a forum post. - Respond to the forum posts of at least two other participants.
3	Exodus 1-4, 6:1-13, 6:28-7:13, 11-15, 19-20, 32-34. Deuteronomy 1-4, 9, 18:14-22. Joshua 1-3, 6, 23-24.	Redemption: Saved to be a blessing. Unfolding themes.	Moses High Priest	“The Doubter’s Guide to the Bible” Chapters 4 & 5. “The Bible Project” videos Exodus1-8, Exodus 19-40 (Torah Series III/IV)	Go back to the theme you chose in week 1. How has this theme “unfolded” (developed, expanded) from its introduction to this point in the narrative? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Share your thoughts in a forum post. - Respond to the forum posts of at least two other participants.
4	Judges 2:6-23 1 Samuel 8,16-17 2 Samuel 7,11-12, 22,23:1-7 Psalm 1,2,19, 25, 51,72, 73. 1 Kings 3, 6, 8-11. Proverbs 1-9.	Leadership: The blessing of wisdom.	David Solomon	“The Doubter’s Guide to the Bible” Chapter 6. “The Bible Project” videos 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, Psalms	Develop a concept map of one of the major themes we have identified, indicating how the idea has unfolded throughout the story. <i>(2-week exercise)</i>
5	2 Kings 17-19 Amos 4-5, 9 Hosea 1-3 Isaiah 1-2, 9, 52- 53, 61 Jeremiah 23-24,31:23-36	Speaking Out: The blessing of righteousness. God’s Promises: Now and not yet.	Elijah Hosea	“The Bible Project” videos 1&2 Kings, Amos	Complete theme concept map by adding a “not yet” feature that points to how the theme will continue to unfold. (Objectives 1, 2)

6	Mark 1-2, 8, 11, 14-16. John 1,11 Acts 1-4, 8-11, 13, 17	Promises Fulfilled: The arrival of the Kingdom	Jesus	“The Doubter’s Guide to the Bible” Chapter 8. “The Bible Project” videos Mark	Choose one of the key figures from the Old Testament and describe how the role and character of that figure points to the role and character of Jesus. (Objective 3)
7	Romans 1-5, 12. Galatians 1:1-10, 3:1-23. Ephesians 1-2. Hebrews 1:1-3, 7:11-8:13, 9:11-28, 11:1-12:3.	Promises Embraced: Living by faith in the meantime.		“The Doubter’s Guide to the Bible” Chapter 9.	Complete writing task (Objective 3).
8	Revelation 4-5, 6:1-8:5, 21- 22.	Promises Consummated: The final blessing of the Kingdom.	Jesus	“The Doubter’s Guide to the Bible” Chapter 10. “The Bible Project” videos Revelation (parts I and II)	Choose one of the major themes we have identified and write a forum post describing how that theme impacts our thinking about and practice of education. Respond to the posts of at least two other students by making comments or asking questions. (Objectives 4, 5)
9					Project week: Work with a small group to design a presentation of the biblical narrative for your students. Share your presentations on the course site and interact with the presentations of others. (Objectives 5, 6)

Required Texts/Other Resources

Dickson, J. (2014). *A Doubter's Guide to the Bible: Inside History's Bestseller for Believers and Skeptics*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan. ([Also available in electronic version](#)).

Videos from "The Bible Project"

<https://thebibleproject.com/explore/torah-series/>

<https://thebibleproject.com/explore/1-samuel/>

<https://thebibleproject.com/explore/2-samuel/>

<https://thebibleproject.com/explore/psalms/>

<https://thebibleproject.com/explore/1-2-kings/>

<https://thebibleproject.com/explore/amos/>

<https://thebibleproject.com/explore/mark/>

<https://thebibleproject.com/explore/revelation/>

Assessment Tasks

Task	Objective/s	Week	% Weighting
Contribution to the course discussion forum by a) Creating forum posts that thoughtfully address the questions outlined in the course. b) Responding to the forum posts of other participants by making comments and asking questions.	1,2,4,5	Ongoing	20%
Concept map of the unfolding of one major theme through the Old Testament.	1,2	4-5	30%
Written description of how the role and character of one Old Testament figure points to the role and character of Jesus.	3	6	20%
Collaborative Project: Design a presentation that could be used to share the biblical narrative with your students.	5,6	7-8	30%