

## Syllabus

### Thinking Faith Academy: How to think about you

*“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.”*

2 Timothy 2:15

*“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”*

Romans 12:2

### Course Description

A study in a Scriptural understanding of common Christian topics with an emphasis on application. This course seeks to aid the learner to gain a biblical view in all areas of life and to live out one's Christian theology in practical areas of everyday life. The topics covered are as follows:

1. Forgiveness: What does that mean in my situation?
2. Guilt and Repentance: I can't move forward, I'm stuck!
3. Trials & Suffering: Should I run or stay?
4. Pride & Humility: I'm proud that I'm humble.
5. Temptation: When will this stop?
6. Worry, Fear, Anger: But I can't help it! My mother was too!
7. Conflict & Peacemaking: This conflict is killing me!
8. Spiritual Evaluation: How do I know?
9. Growing & Changing: How is this possible?
10. Biblical Decision Making: What should I do?

### Course Objectives

This module is designed to assist the learner in gaining biblical insights and skills, which will help her in her spiritual, mental, emotional, and relational journey through life. Upon completion of this course, successful learners will be able to articulate personal convictions that are rooted in a Christian worldview.

1. Distinguish the difference between a biblical perspective and secular perspective regarding foundational Christian topics.

2. Become acquainted with defining features of God-centered anthropology (how to biblically think about man).
3. Grow in familiarity with the Scriptures, biblical commentaries and dictionaries.
4. Begin to think theologically.
5. Evaluate one's immaterial thoughts, desires and motives biblically.
6. Grow in ability to study to show one's self approved unto God.
7. Grow closer to God.
8. Continue to grow in love for God and neighbor.

### **Required Textbooks**

*Note: The Bible commentaries and dictionaries will be available for use in the UBC church library.*

Merrille F. Unger & R. K. Harrison. *The New Unger's Bible Dictionary* Moody Publishers; Revised edition (May 1, 2006)

E. Ray Clendenen and Jeremy Royal Howard. *Holman Illustrated Bible Commentary* Nashville, TN: Holman Reference, 2015

Walter A. Elwell *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology* 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic

John F. Walvoord and Roy B. Zuck, *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, Victor Books, 1985

### **Course Requirements**

1. Notebook: The notebook is tool you will use to organize material necessary for reflection, insights, as a future resource, and as an aid in teaching and training others.
2. Scripture Memory: Throughout Thinking Faith Curriculum learners will be asked to memorize Scripture related to assignments. Scripture is a very important part of the program.
3. Route 66 Bible/Skim Journal: The purpose of the Route 66 Journal is to read or skim the entire Bible to gain an overall view of essential biblical themes that inform and strengthen a Christian worldview and to apply one's knowledge to everyday life. You will be provided a two-year reading plan and will be encouraged to stay on track with the reading and journal entries. (See below for how to do your entries)

#### Section One for the Old Testament

Paragraph 1: Learners seek to Answer: "What is the passage talking about?" This entry starts with, "This passage teaches..." explaining authorial intent.

Paragraph 2: Learners Seek to Answer: "What does the passage teach the Christian?" This entry starts with, "I can apply this passage by..."

4. Other Assignments: Beyond the requirements listed above, other assignments may be put forth along with instructions on how they are to be completed.
5. In-Class Notes: Learners will be asked to complete class notes for each session. Additional hand-outs can be placed in the Notes section of your notebook.

6. Group Discussions: Group discussions are an essential component of this program for the following reasons.
- Discussions aid the learner in developing a clear understanding of the material covered by preparing to share your insights with the group. Please only contribute to the group discussion in as much as you have completed homework assignments. If you could not do the work that particular week then sit back and listen to the insights of others in your group. This can be a very rich time (I know I've had to do this!)
  - The discussion group enhances and solidifies understanding of the material.
  - It builds a sense of community among followers of Christ and aids in the development of deep friendships, mentorships, discipleship, and spiritual growth.

### Course Schedule

Each class will begin promptly. Please be prepared to begin class on time. Class time is designed for group discussions regarding homework and listen to lecture material. Questions are encouraged, but ***do not interrupt the lecture to ask questions***. There will be a designated time for questions. You may also ask questions during the break.

Respect for, and Christian attitudes toward your teachers, classmates, and course materials are expected.

September 6/7	* Class Introduction and greetings. Assign Lesson # 1 <b>Forgiveness</b>
September 13/14	* Group Discussion Lecture Forgiveness Assign Lesson # 2 <b>Guilt and Repentance</b>
September 20/21	* Group Discussion Lecture Guilt and Repentance Assign Lesson # 3 <b>Trials &amp; Suffering</b>
September 27/28	* Group Discussion Lecture Trials & Suffering Assign Lesson # 4 <b>Pride &amp; Humility</b>
October 4/5	* Group Discussion Lecture Pride & Humility (Lora Doremus) Assign Lesson # 5 <b>Temptation</b>

October 11/12

\* Group Discussion

Lecture Temptation

Lesson # 6 **Worry, Fear, Anger**

October 18/19

\* Group Discussion

Lecture Worry, Fear, Anger

Lesson # 7 **Conflict & Peacemaking**

October 25/26

\* Group Discussion

Lecture Conflict & Peacemaking

Lesson # 8 **Following Christ/Evaluation**

November 1/2

\* Group Discussion

Lecture Following Christ/Evaluation

Lesson # 9 **Growing & Changing**

November 8/9

\* Group Discussion

Lecture Changing & Growing

Lesson # 10 **Biblical Decision Making**

November 15/16

\* Group Discussion

Lecture Biblical Decision Making

End Semester. Great Job!