

How To Use This Material

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One of the greatest problems for teachers of Adult Bible Study Classes and Home Study Groups is finding the time and resources to put together the lesson the teacher wishes to present. The materials of *GodStory.net* are, essentially, research materials from which a teacher may draw in the development of his or her lesson. As there is a diversity of teachers, classes, and educational needs within the teaching program of all churches, this material is written with an attempt to address this diversity. There are two levels of material within each lesson. There is a **popular level** of instruction for the teacher who desires to address the class with material having this level of interest. There is also a more **scholarly level** of material for the teacher and class desiring to dig deeper into the mine of Scripture looking for hidden ore or insights.

Each lesson contains a great deal more material than will be needed for an hour-long class; in fact, there is enough material in each lesson for several classes, and this is intentional. In preparation for a class the teacher can read through the material and mark out what he or she finds most useful and desirable for the type of class he or she will be teaching.

The materials do not present an “either-or” option; rather, the teacher may pull from both levels of instruction and should choose the material most appropriate to the needs of the Bible Study.

The Popular Level Material

With a view to the popular level, the teacher will find material that lends itself to the a story format with data on backgrounds, character development, dialogue, and the development of the themes and motifs associated with the story within or underlying the text. Themes of major importance to the understanding of the text are often given at the end of the lesson as and “Excursus,” which can

provide the teacher with additional insights into the particulars of the text being studied.

The *GodStory.net* website also contains a tutorial on how to develop the story of a text using the storytelling craft. Simply go to the **Home Page** and click on, "*Storycraft and Bible Study*" and work through the list of tutorials presenting a method of Bible Study that approaches the Bible as narrative or story. The essentials of each biblical book having a narrative format that may be considered as a storyteller would a story. This approach works especially well with the Gospels and Acts of Apostles, which are narrative compositions, as well as any OT book having a narrative or "story" format. The epistles of the NT all have stories underlying them. So also do the poetic and prophetic or apocalyptic books. Finding the story underlying these writings is the key to their interpretation and provides the teacher with an agenda in his or her research.

The Scholarly Level Material

If the teacher and class desire a more scholarly level of study, there is material within each lesson that will satisfy this desire. Such matters as historical backgrounds, word studies (Hebrew and Greek), and exegetical analysis are all available to the teacher. The development of themes and motifs warranting greater treatment may often be found as an "Excursus" at the end of the lesson or as a separate lesson.

Both levels of material, popular and scholarly, may be pulled from the lessons as are appropriate to the make up of the class being taught. A list of questions designed to generate class discussion is given for some courses, which are intended to serve as examples of the type of questions that work well in a discussion format.

Lessons for all courses offered on *GodStory.net* are found on the website home page in the menu of courses offered. The lessons for the course selected will appear on the page in pdf format when clicked. These are printable versions of the lessons. Simply click on the lesson open it and print. Also, the menu has a DOWNLOAD COURSES tab that may be used to download all the lessons of each course in their entirety. Lessons found in the course download

section can be modified as desired. Simply click on the title of the course and your computer will automatically download the lessons in document (doc) format for Microsoft (PC) and Macintosh (Apple) users. The "doc" formatted lessons may be edited in accordance with the teacher's needs. Individual lesson printed from the menu are in pdf format, which may not be edited. There is also a listing titled "*Digging Out the Ore*," which consists of articles on various themes and topics that may enhance the lesson being presented.

Tutorials

The author of this curriculum is available for tutorial assistance to teachers using these materials and may be reached by Email at lusk232@bellsouth.net or by phone at 770-682-7187. Private meeting for tutorial assistance may be arranged if desired.