

How To Use This Material

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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 distinct 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 the hidden ore.

Each lesson contains more material than will be needed for a forty-five minute class; in fact, there is enough material in each lesson for several classes, and this is intentional. In preparation for a class the teacher should read through the material and mark out what he or she finds most useful and desirable for the type of class to be taught.

The teacher may wish to pull from both levels of instruction and should choose the material desired without feeling that he or she is eliminating material crucial to understanding the text or lesson.

The Popular Level Material

Concerning the development of the lesson with a view to the popular level, the teacher will find material that lends itself to a story format with data on backgrounds, character development, dialogue or narrative material, and there is always a development of the themes associated with the story. Themes of major importance to the understanding of the text are often given at the end of the lesson as and "Excursus," or may be found under the "Digging Out the Ore" link on the Home Page.

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 on interpreting the Bible as one would do

as a storyteller, or considering it as a stage play or drama. 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 Scholarly Level Material

If the teacher and class desire a more scholarly level of study, there is material within the lesson of a more in depth nature. This material can found in the historical backgrounds studies, word studies (Hebrew and Greek), and in the development of major themes within the text, many of which may be found as an “Excursus” at the end of the lesson or on the “Digging Out the Ore” link on the Home Page.

Both levels of material, popular and scholarly, may taught without regard to levels; this is at the teachers’ discretion and knowledge of the make-up of the class being taught. A list of questions designed to generate class discussion is given for some courses; they 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. 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 and print it once opened. Also, the menu has a DOWNLOAD COURSES tab that can be used to download each course of lessons 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, which may be edited according to the teacher’s needs. There is also a listing titled “Digging Out the Ore,” which consists of articles on various themes and issues 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 meetings for tutorial assistance may be arranged by appointment.