

Adult Bible Study Curriculum Plan and Materials

from
BAPTISTWAY PRESS®

Overview

BAPTISTWAY PRESS®, the publishing imprint of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, offers churches a series of undated Bible study curriculum materials for use in Sunday School and in other Bible study opportunities.

What Is Our Purpose?

- The purpose of the adult Bible study materials is to help adults engage in Bible study that focuses on these biblical priorities: affirming the Bible as our authoritative guide for life and ministry; sharing the gospel with all people; developing a growing, vibrant faith; including all God's family in decision-making and service; valuing all people as created in the image of God; encouraging healthy families; obeying and serving Jesus by meeting physical, spiritual, and emotional needs; equipping people for servant leadership
- values the biblical distinctives that have shaped Baptist life and history
- meets adults' life needs

Who Is Our Audience?

The adults for whom these materials are prepared are laypeople in churches large and small and in various parts of the state and the nation. They may be in the country, in small towns, or in large cities. Their ethnic and cultural backgrounds may be diverse.

The teachers for whom these curriculum materials are prepared are laypeople whose churches have enlisted them to teach. These teachers are volunteers, with limited time and perhaps limited resources, but who yet desire quality Bible study materials that provide sound information, interpretation, and application. Because these teachers have varying degrees of skill, these materials are designed to be practical and easy to use so as to help teachers begin where they are and minister in the best way possible to the adults they teach.

The words and the graphic design used in the curriculum materials reflect the nature of the audience, teachers as well as learners. The emphasis in the words is on clear communication of practical, helpful ideas, and the art is realistic and accurate.

What Is the Content of the Study?

A curriculum plan based largely on the study of Bible books has been projected. As part of this plan, books and Scripture passages that aid in accomplishing the purpose of the study are selected. Varied kinds of Bible books are studied within a given year. To meet the perceived needs and wants of users, a Christmas or Easter lesson is included as an alternate lesson for the time of original issue when Christmas or Easter occurs during that time.

What Educational Approach Guides the Curriculum Plan and Materials?

The educational goal is to assist adults and adult classes in understanding and applying the biblical message in light of the purposes of the study. The materials recognize that adults learn best through activities. The materials also recognize that many adults and adult teachers prefer learning activities in which they feel most in control, such as lecture. Thus the materials attempt to meet both of these needs by providing two teaching plans, one with varied learning activities and another with activities limited to lecture, questions, and visual aids.

What Curriculum Materials for Adult Bible Study Are Provided?

- The *Adult Bible Study Guide* contains Bible comments, the focal Scripture passage, questions, and application suggestions. This attractive paperback book is for all participants, members as well as teachers.
- A *Large Print Adult Bible Study Guide* provides the same content as the Study Guide in a large-print format.
- The *Teaching Guide* contains Bible comments and two teaching plans.
- All of the above materials are available in both print and digital format.
- The following additional materials are provided:
 - Adult Online Bible Commentary* (digital only)
 - Adult Online Teaching Plans* (digital only)

What Are Some Distinctive Features of These Adult Bible Study Curriculum Materials?

Distinctives of these BAPTISTWAY PRESS® adult Bible study curriculum materials include the following:

- The curriculum plan and materials value the biblical distinctives that have shaped Baptist life and history.
- The Bible studies focus on passages of Scripture that assist churches and individuals in achieving their mission.
- The curriculum plan includes:
 - (a) studies of Bible books or portions of Bible books and studies of biblical themes, with the emphasis on studies of Bible books
 - (b) studies that include both the Old Testament and the New Testament within a given year
 - (c) a study of one of the Gospels each yearThe studies of Bible books generally are based on the main outline of the Bible book, but the studies may also be thematic in nature within that book.
- The 2012-2015 curriculum plan follows this arrangement each year:
 - (1) Study of a New Testament letter or letters—first use September—November
 - (2) Study of a Gospel—first use December—February
 - (3) Study of an Old Testament book or books—first use March—May
 - (4) Study of a biblical theme—first use June—August
- The curriculum plan and materials guide the study of the Bible in ways appropriate to the adult years.
- The curriculum materials are “user-friendly”—practical, helpful, and immediately useful to teachers and learners, including those with limited time, resources, and skills.
- The materials are educationally sound.

- Responsibility for sound Bible interpretation and communication is placed on the writers. Trusted, qualified Baptist writers are selected. They are encouraged to make lesson comments that reflect their beliefs, to make these comments in light of sound Bible study principles, and to write responsibly in light of the needs of churches.
- Lesson comments are based on the English translation chosen by the writer of the Bible comments, but various English translations may be referenced in the materials. Writers are encouraged to base their comments on the New International Version, New American Standard Bible, or the New Revised Standard Version.
- The *Large Print Adult Bible Study Guide* is published in an industry-standard large print format.
- All materials are available in both print and digital format.
- Adult Bible studies based on the adult curriculum outlines are available free on the internet in Spanish, Korean, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Laotian, Chinese, and Basic English at www.baptistwaypress.org.

For additional information:

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