

Get Started – Pathways to Learning the Bible at Grace Bible Institute

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Get Started Learning Now

Welcome to Grace Bible Institute (GBI)! We are thrilled to have you join us in the pursuit of Biblical truth, in the study of the verbally inspired Words of God, and in the conviction of faith that there is only one name under heaven by which we can be saved – Jesus! (Acts 4:12)

In this document, you will discover how to...

- 1.1 [Apply](#) for classes with GBI, or [Contact](#) us for more information;
- 1.2 **Download** syllabus and study materials;
- 1.3 Discern which of the [four Paths of Study](#) is your preferred choice;
- 1.4 Discover how our [Curriculum](#) is set up;
- 1.5 Enroll in a specific **Course** of study (which classes are currently being offered).

1.1 [Apply](#) for classes with GBI – Click/Tap the Apply Button on our Home Page (or [Apply](#) here) to be taken to the Registration Page of our website. There you will enter your name and email address (not optional) and your phone number (optional) as well as your preference for communication.

In order to register and participate with our faculty and other students, you will need to create/share your email address with us. We will get then help you use the WebEx App for our online classes.

1.2 [Download](#) syllabus and study materials – on the Home Page you will find links to all of our current courses. Click/Tap the Button on the Course you want to study/review (or [Download](#) here for an example). You will find two buttons near the top of that webpage for downloading the Full Course materials and the Syllabus.

1.3 Discern which of the [four Paths of Study](#) is your preferred choice – you do not have to set your path before studying with us, however, here you can understand and think about which path you might pursue toward a certificate.

1.4 Discover how our [Curriculum](#) is set up – Grace Bible Institute is taught by fully trained pastors who have at least a Masters of Divinity (MDiv) degree from one of our Lutheran Seminaries.

1.5 Enroll in a specific **Course** of study – you will need to select a class that is currently being offered and register for that specific class. Once you have registered, our registrar will contact you with detailed information about when the class is being offered, who is teaching it, and how you can join online.

Grace Bible Institute

CURRICULUM

2024

Grace Bible Institute exists to help students mature in the Christian faith and move deeper into the truths of the true Christian faith until they embrace the teachings of the confessional Lutheran church, the visible Christian church that is faithful to all the teachings of the Bible.

THE OBJECTIVES OF GRACE BIBLE INSTITUTE

The Grace Bible Institute has two objectives:

1. Provide students with Christ-centered teaching in Christian theology from highly skilled teachers who will help them grow and mature in Christian faith and understanding.
2. Prepare students for an appropriate ministry role in a local independent congregation or small fellowship group.

As students grow and mature in faith through our courses, it is our hope, prayer, and goal that they will move deeper into the truths of God's word until they are able to discern error and embrace the one true apostolic and evangelical Christian faith.

TARGET AUDIENCE

The target audience of GBI equivocates with the objectives of GBI:

- Anyone who wants to grow in their understanding of the Christian faith.
- Anyone who wants to prepare for a special role in spreading the Gospel in China.

EDUCATIONAL LEVEL

Current GBI courses have been written on a variety of educational levels. Some courses are quite advanced and more difficult. Other courses have been prepared for adult Christians who have a basic knowledge of the Bible and its teachings, similar to what would be used for a Sunday morning Bible class in America. The list of GBI courses will indicate the difficulty level of each.

FOUR PATHS OF STUDY

Students who enroll in Grace Bible Institute may take one of four paths of study.

- **Path 1** = This student wants to enjoy learning more about the Bible from skilled and loving teachers and will choose any courses that he or she wishes to study. This student has no special goal or plan and is not working toward any sort of certificate.
- **Path 2** = This student would like to prepare himself or herself to lead a gathering of friends in the study of the Bible through GBI courses or other courses.
- **Path 3** = This student would like to prepare herself for service to Christ's church as a deaconess in a congregation or fellowship. Details about the deaconess course of study are found below. This path of study is only open to women.
- **Path 4** = This student would like to prepare himself for service to a local fellowship or congregation as a shepherding elder/leader. This path of study is only open to men.

All four paths begin with the student successfully completing GBI #101 on the Basic Teachings of the Bible. Here are details about each path of study. Note that GBI courses that are already complete and ready to use are in **BLACK** print. New courses that are proposed to be added to the curriculum are in **RED** print. Courses offered through the Diploma of Christian Leadership (DCL) program are in **PURPLE** print.

STUDY PATH 1: GENERAL STUDENT

This student wants to enjoy learning more about the Bible from skilled and loving teachers and will choose any courses that he or she wishes to study without a special goal or plan.

#	Courses	Notes
101	Basic Teachings of the Bible	This overview of Biblical teaching is a course we would like all of the students to take as soon as possible.
Students on this path may take any other courses in the GBI curriculum listed below as they are offered. Students may be guided by a faculty member to take courses that would be suited to the student's current level of progress.		

STUDY PATH 2: SMALL GROUP LEADER

This student would like to prepare himself or herself (when appropriate) to lead a gathering of friends in the study of the Bible through GBI courses or other courses.

#	Courses	Notes
101	Basic Teachings of the Bible	Required of all students on this path.
205	Law and Gospel	Required; a foundational course.
216	Church and Ministry	New course
403	Leading a Small Group Bible Study	New course
301	Evangelism	These courses are not required for a certificate, but all students on this path will be encouraged to take them as soon as possible.
305	Defending Your Faith	
After completing the two studies above, all students on this path will be encouraged to study any Bible book or topic that he or she intends to study with his or her group. Since many of our students have been studying with us for quite a while, we have a sizable group of students who might quickly qualify for such a role. This course is intended to prepare the student to be ready as quickly as possible to begin to gather students to study.		

STUDY PATH 3: DEACONESS PROGRAM

This student would like to prepare herself for service to Christ's church as a deaconess in a congregation or fellowship. This path of study is only open to women. The Deaconess Ministry Certificate will be awarded to those who complete the required courses as indicated in the chart below. Upon completion of the certificate, the candidate will be interviewed by a committee from the GBI faculty who may commend her to the church for a call to serve as deaconess.

The courses for the training of a Deaconess are listed below.

Note: Courses listed in BLACK are GBI courses currently ready to be used.

Courses listed in RED are GBI courses that need to be written.

#	Courses	Notes
101	Basic Teachings of the Bible	Required of all students
205	Law and Gospel	Required; a foundational course

216	Church and Ministry	Required; NEW
307	Christian Parenting	To be written.
410	Introduction to Deaconess Ministry	To be written.
411	Spiritual Care and Visitation Ministry	To be written.
412	Teaching A Children's Bible Lesson	To be written
414	Ministry to Women and Families	To be written.
A Deaconess student will be required to take the courses indicated and may be encouraged to take additional courses under the guidance of her mentor.		

STUDY PATH 4: SPIRITUAL SHEPHERD TRAINING

This student would like to prepare himself for service to a local fellowship or congregation as a shepherding elder/leader. This path of study is only open to men. A spiritual shepherd would be:

- A man who possesses all of the qualifications listed in 1 Timothy 3:1-13 and Titus 1:6-9.
- A man who has completed a course of training as prescribed in this curriculum.
- A man who is not an ordained pastor, but a lay elder (who may or may not receive compensation for his ministry).
- A man who is who has been called by the group that he serves.
- A man who carries out most of the pastoral work in the group such as preaching, leading worship, administering the sacraments, teaching Bible classes, providing care for souls, (and other duties as requested or agreed upon with the group).
- A man who gladly receives the mentoring and counseling of an ordained pastor as arranged by the faculty of GBI as he serves his congregation.

The training of a spiritual shepherd will be guided by an advisor from MCM (or perhaps a member of the GBI faculty).

DCL Program - The courses for the training of a spiritual shepherd are listed below. For this program, we would like to make use of the ALS's Diploma of Christian Leadership (DCL) program.¹

Note: Courses listed in BLACK are GBI courses currently ready to be used.

Courses listed in RED are GBI courses that need to be written.

Courses listed in PURPLE are DCL courses ready to be used.

#	Courses	Notes
101	Basic Teachings of the Bible	Required of all students
Courses in Christian doctrine and studies of Bible books or other courses selected from the GBI curriculum will be recommended by the spiritual adviser.		
011	Strengthen the Believer's Faith	DCL course
012	Equip the Believers to Serve	DCL course
013	Train Church Leaders	DCL course
014 304	Facilitate the Worship Gathering Christian Worship	One or the Other Required
015	Teach a Bible Study	DCL course

016 404	Deliver a Basic Message Preaching the Word	One or the Other Required
017	Shepherd the Believers	DCL course
018 301	Organize Outreach and Prepare the Church to Multiply Evangelism	One or the Other Required
216	Church and Ministry	NEW an ecclesiology course
411	Spiritual Care and Visitation Ministry	NEW
This is the most rigorous of the training paths due to the nature of the work that awaits the student. The graduate of this program of study will receive special recognition from GBI, take part in an interview by a committee from GBI and be recommended to the church for service.		

¹ The Diploma of Christian Studies program is offered through Asia Lutheran Seminary. The DCL program is designed to equip Christian leaders, especially brothers who lead Bible studies, with appropriate biblical training and leadership skills. Students are required to complete ten subjects of the Certificate in Christian Studies and eight subjects of the Diploma in Christian Leadership to be awarded the Diploma in Christian Leadership. The majority of courses are taught online, other teaching methods (such as weekend intensive courses and self-study courses) will be offered based on student needs and the availability of the school. The tuition fee is NT\$650/credit or HKD175/credit. See the ALS website for details.

THE GBI CURRICULUM OFFERINGS

***Difficulty categories are:**

1 = Easiest 2 = Medium 3 = Hardest

BIBLICAL BOOKS COURSES		Paths	Difficulty	Notes
101	Basic Christian Teaching <i>Balza – 16 lessons</i>	1,2,3,4	1	This will be one of the first two courses to be offered for our students to use.
102	Old Testament Survey <i>Under development (West)</i>	1,3	1	
103	The Life of Christ <i>Thompson/Luetke - 15 lessons</i>	1	1	This will be the second course offered for our students to use.
104	Acts and Epistles <i>Balza - 15 lessons</i>	1	2	
105	Genesis 1-11 <i>Under revision (Balza)</i>	1	2	
106	Genesis 12-25 <i>Balza – 14 lessons</i>	1	2	
107	The Messiah in the Old Testament <i>Balza - 12 lessons</i>	1,3	2	
108	Psalms <i>Baumann – 12 lessons</i>	1	2	Needs to be translated
109	Gospel of John	1	1	

	<i>Balza - 15 lessons</i>			
110	Romans 1-8 <i>Kratz - 12 lessons</i>	1	1	
111	Romans 9-16 <i>Kratz/Witt - 8 lessons</i>	1	2	
112	1 Corinthians <i>Balza – 17 lessons</i>	1	2	
113	Galatians <i>(to be assigned)</i>	1	2	
114	James <i>(to be assigned)</i>	1	2	
115	Revelation <i>(to be assigned)</i>			
Total of 15 courses				
CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE COURSES				
201	God and His Revelation <i>Lange/Luetke - 12 lessons</i>	1	3	
202	The Savior/Those He Saves <i>Lange/Luetke - 15 lessons</i>	1	3	
203	The Way of Salvation <i>Lange/Lenz - 14 lessons</i>	1	3	Needs revision
204	The Christian Life <i>Lange/Lenz/Balza - 14 lessons</i>	1	3	Needs Revision
205	Law and Gospel <i>Witt - 10 lessons</i>	1	1	
206	Interpreting the Bible <i>Luetke - 8 lessons</i>	1	1	
207	Luther's Small Catechism <i>Witt - 15 lessons</i>	1	1	
208	Augsburg Confession Pt 1 <i>Luetke - 14 lessons</i>	1	3	
209	Augsburg Confession Pt 2 <i>Luetke - 14 lessons</i>	1	3	
210	Baptism for All Nations <i>Balza - 9 lessons</i>	1	2	
211	Confessing and the Creeds <i>Witt - 7 lessons</i>	1	2	
212	The Holy Spirit <i>Assigned (Balza – 12 lessons)</i>	1	3	
213	Eschatology <i>(to be assigned)</i>	1	2	
214	Christian Discipline <i>Balza – 4 lessons</i>	1	1	
215	The Lord's Supper <i>(to be assigned)</i>	1	2	
216	Church and Ministry <i>(to be assigned)</i>	1,3,4	2	
Total 16 courses				

CHRISTIAN LIVING COURSES				
301	Evangelism (New Life) <i>Author - 11 lessons</i>	1	2	
302	Discipleship (Life With Our Lord) <i>Witt - 12 lessons</i>	1	2	
303	Meaning of Marriage <i>Witt - 11 lessons</i>	1	1	
304	Christian Worship <i>Patterson - 8 lessons</i>	1,4	2	
305	Defending Your Faith (Apologetics) <i>Balza - 8 lessons</i>	1,2	2	
306	Lutheran Reformation <i>Balza - 4 or 8 lessons</i>	1	2	
307	Christian Parenting <i>(under development by R Balza)</i>	1,3	1	
Total 7 courses				
CHRISTIAN MINISTRY COURSES				
401	Shepherd's Life/Pastoral Care <i>Under development (Witt)</i>	1	3	
402	Shepherd's Leadership <i>Witt - 10 lessons</i>	1	3	
403	Leading A Small Group Bible Study <i>Not assigned</i>	1	1	
404	Preaching the Word <i>Lehmann - 10 lessons</i>	1	3	
405	Christian Counseling <i>Frey - 8 lessons</i>	1	2	
406	Marriage (Counseling) <i>Aderman - 8 lessons</i>	1	3	
407	Gospel Texts, Part 1 <i>Balza/Tobison/Witt - 15 lessons</i>	1	3	
408	Gospel Texts, Part 2 <i>Balza/Tobison/Witt - 15 lessons</i>	1	3	
410	Introduction to Deaconess Ministry <i>(under development by R. Balza)</i>	1,3		
411	Spiritual Care and Visitation Ministry <i>(to be assigned)</i>	1,3,4		
412	Teaching A Children's Bible Lesson <i>Under development (Fischer - about 4 or 5 lessons)</i>	1,3,4		
414	Ministry to Women and Families <i>(Under development by Lyo, Stellick, Doeblner)</i>	1,3		
Total 12 courses				

**The curriculum will have 50 courses total by 2028.
(There are currently 40 courses, although some are in the process of revision right now.)**

PRIORITY OF WRITING NEW COURSES

410 – Introduction to Deaconess Ministry (begun by R. Balza)

412 – Teaching A Children’s Bible Lesson (begun by R. Fischer)

216 – Church and Ministry (begun by R. Balza)

307 – Christian Parenting (begun by R. Balza)

411 – Spiritual Care and Visitation Ministry

403 – Leading A Small Group Bible Study

414 – Ministry to Women and Families (begun by Allie, Sarah and Christine)