

## What is the Lightbearers Institute?

The Lightbearers Institute is the primary teaching element in the Lightbearers Discipleship Community. It is a classroom setting where over the span of two years, students attend over fifty class sessions and complete two courses: Biblical Survey and Theology and Practice. The Institute seeks to give students Biblical literacy and sound doctrine, equipping them as church members for a lifetime and then stepping away to allow their churches will build upon this introductory foundational knowledge. In addition to participating in the Institute, students in a Lightbearers Discipleship Community live in intentional small groups led by a house leader, meet regularly with a mentor from their local church and are exposed to the work of the body of Christ among the nations. Our prayer is that these commitments connect students for life with Jesus, his people and his plan for the ends of the earth while we use their rental income to fund mission projects in Asia and northern Africa.

Lightbearers is not the church but, rather, exists to serve the local church. This conviction has impact in many areas, including the fact that the Lightbearers Institute is primarily taught by local pastors in order to emphasize to students our ministry's subordinate role and to introduce students to several healthy local churches. Remaining classes are taught by Lightbearers staff members and, in some instances, church laymen and laywomen.

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## Week 10: Christology - Who is Jesus?

**Thesis:** This is the week where Christian theology takes a dramatic turn. Every religion talks about God, man, and what has gone wrong in the world. Christianity, however, argues that the solution to the problem of sin is found in Jesus, who is “the image of the invisible God” and yet is also fully man. Jesus accurately prophesied that he would be the stone on which people would stumble and Paul wrote that everything was loss compared to knowing him. Our life now and in eternity is based on our knowing and responding to Jesus, the one of whom God the Father said, “This is my Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

**Primary Objectives:** At the conclusion of this session, students should understand: 1) Jesus is the fully divine Son of God; 2) Jesus is fully man and lived a true human life; 3) Before God, and on our behalf, Jesus fulfilled the role of prophet, priest, and king; 4) Jesus' life on earth was completely perfect—loving the Lord with all his heart, soul, mind, and strength and his neighbor as himself; 5) In death, Jesus accepted God's wrath towards sin, offered himself as a perfect sacrifice for sin, redeemed his people, and reconciled them to God; and 6) Jesus' resurrection is not merely an exclamation point but a profoundly significant event that has dramatic repercussions for our lives today and forever.

**Key Readings:** Psalm 2, Psalm 22, Luke 23-24, John 8, Colossians 1, **Hebrews 1**

### Things to Remember:

- The Lightbearers Institute aims to teach Biblical literacy and doctrinal soundness. Christian unity and a love of Scripture should be displayed above the ability to win an argument. On potentially contentious doctrines, we primarily want to emphasize to students the bounds of historical evangelical orthodox faith. You are free to outline your particular opinion on these doctrines, but please acknowledge to students where there is notable legitimate debate on an issue.
- Class sessions usually run for 90 minutes and take place in an academic setting (students seated at tables), but please communicate with your local campus staff for exact details and location.
- In an effort to encourage students to engage with Scripture, students have assigned key readings (listed above), so it is wise to reference some of these readings. We do not ensure students have completed the assigned readings but mentioning and/or discussing these readings, particularly the bolded chapter, during class reinforces to students the need to complete these readings.
- Lightbearers Theology and Practice course follows an outline loosely based on Wayne Grudem's Systematic Theology. Please note, however, that students have not read Systematic Theology by Wayne Grudem.
- Please prepare an outline for students. A sample outline follows, but please note that this material is suggestive rather than prescriptive. Please use this sample to whatever extent is helpful to you, and communicate with local campus staff with any specific questions you have.
- Our most successful instructors consistently do three things: 1. Demonstrate clearly that their teaching and opinions are based in Scripture; 2. Communicate with students in an engaging manner; 3. Have a passion for the Scriptures and the God who inspired them.

**Proposed Teaching Outline**

	TOPIC	CHAPTERS	TIME
I.	The Person of Christ	(26, 29)	(45 min.)
	A. Fully God	(26)	(15 min.)
	B. Fully Man	(26)	(15 min.)
	C. The Offices of Christ	(29)	(15 min.)
II.	The Work of Christ	(27-28)	(45 min.)
	A. Life of Christ	(27)	(15 min.)
	B. Death of Christ	(27)	(15 min.)
	C. Resurrection of Christ	(28)	(15 min.)

**Fall Class Sequence**

WEEK	DOCTRINES
(1)	Introduction / Bibliology
(2-3)	Biblical Theology / Hermeneutics
(4-5)	Theology
(6-7)	Man + Sin
(8-9)	Worldview
(10)	Jesus
(11-12)	Salvation
(13)	Holy Spirit

**Resources**

TITLE/AUTHOR	CHAPTERS
Systematic Theology Grudem	(26-29)
Historical Theology Allison	(17-19)
The Christian Faith Horton	(14-16)
Christian Theology Erickson	(33-40)
Classic Christianity Oden	(II: 1-14)

**Additional Web Resources**

Capitol Hill Baptist Church
<a href="http://capitolhillbaptist.org/resources/core-seminars">http://capitolhillbaptist.org/resources/core-seminars</a>