

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.

Content: The Bible's songbook

Expectations: At the conclusion of this session, students should understand: 1) The difference between psalms/poetry and narrative; 2) The different types of psalms (praise, petition, confessional, Messianic, etc.); 3) The depth of emotion in the psalms; and 4) The personal and corporate usage of the psalms.

Key Readings: Psalm 1, 19, 42, 73, 90, 107 & 150

Fall Course Schedule

Genesis 1-15
Genesis 16-50
Exodus & Leviticus
Numbers & Deuteronomy
Joshua, Judges, Ruth & 1-2 Samuel
Psalms
1-2 Kings & 1-2 Chronicles
Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes & Song of Solomon
Isaiah
Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk & Zephaniah
Jeremiah & Lamentations
Ezekiel, Esther & Daniel
Ezra, Nehemiah, Haggai, Zechariah & Malachi
Review

Things to Remember:

- The Lightbearers Institute aims to teach Biblical literacy and doctrinal soundness. The Old Testament portion of the Institute aims specifically at Biblical literacy. In particular, **the theme that we want to trace for students is that the whole story of the Bible is one of God glorifying Himself by dwelling among a holy covenant people.** From God walking in the garden to the tabernacle to the temple to Jesus coming to “dwell among us” and then sending His Spirit to live within us and within the church as we long for God to dwell with man again, the theme fills the pages of Scripture. Drawing attention to this theme helps students see Scripture as one grand narrative rather than a series of disconnected stories.
 - In Psalms, we see this theme in the worshipping of God (e.g. Psalm 24), the identification of Israel as His people (e.g. Psalm 106), and the longing for dwelling with God (e.g. Psalm 84).
- Our theme verse for the Old Testament class is Luke 24:27: “Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, he explained to them the things concerning himself in all the Scriptures.” Please point out to students these connections between the Old Testament and the person and work of Christ.
- 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.
- 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 difficult passages, but please acknowledge to students where there is notable legitimate debate on an issue. A desire for Christian unity and a love of Scripture should be displayed above the ability to win an argument.
- Please prepare an outline for students. As our aim is Biblical literacy, please give students an overview of each book so that they understand the main subjects and themes while also diving into two or more sections at greater depth, including the key chapter.
- 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.