

Preliminary Theological Certificate

Unit Outlines



Level 1

Introduction to the Bible	Content
Introduction to the Bible shows how the great themes of the Bible fit together into one story that spans both the Old and New Testaments. At the centre of the story is of course Jesus and this unit shows how God planned to redeem his people, which begins with promises to Abraham and continues through the fortunes of the nation of Israel, reaches its climax at the cross.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Book of Books 2. Interpreting the Bible 3. From creation to new creation 4. Israel and God's purposes 5. The promised land and God's good purposes 6. The Kingdom of David and God's purpose 7. God's purpose renewed 8. Jesus the fulfiller of God's purpose 9. The gospel for the nations 10. Awaiting the fulfillment: the apostles' writings

Promise to Fulfilment	Content
Promise to Fulfilment focuses on training students in a method for reading the Bible well, paying particular attention to interpreting each passage of the Bible in light of its place in the single overarching story that binds the Bible together as a whole. The passages chosen for particular attention represent a range of different genres and each come at a key stage in God's unfolding plan of redemption.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Biblical theology 2. Jesus and the Old Testament 3. Abraham and the children of promise 1 4. Abraham and the children of promise 2 5. The Exodus and God's redemption 1 6. The Exodus and God's redemption 2 7. The king of God's kingdom 8. The covenant of grace 9. The gospel for the nations 10. The eternal inheritance

The Pentateuch	Content
Pentateuch (Old Testament 1) covers the first five books of the Old Testament, examining some of the foundational events in the Bible such as creation, the fall, the promises to Abraham, exodus from Egypt and the giving of the Law. The great themes of sin, covenant, redemption, sacrifice and blessing all emerge from this unit which show how these point forward to the work of Christ.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Creation and God's purposes 2. Rebellion and judgement 3. The patriarchs 4. The book of Exodus 5. The redemption of Israel 6. Israel at Sinai 7. The sacrificial system 8. The book of Numbers 9. the book of Deuteronomy 10. Major ideas in Deuteronomy

Mark	Content
Mark (New Testament 1) takes a systematic approach to reading through the Gospel of Mark, in the process answering the two central questions that Mark poses to his readers: 'Who is Jesus?' and 'What did Jesus come to do?'. Attention is paid to locating the identity and work of Jesus in the context of the Old Testament expectations of the Messiah and showing how Jesus fulfils those expectations.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The gospel and the Gospel 2. Preparing the way for the Lord 3. The kingdom of God is near 4. God spoke to them in parables 5. Jesus cares for the perishing 6. Responding to Jesus 7. Following Jesus 'on the way' 8. Jesus comes to Jerusalem 9. The coming of the Son of Man 10. The king and his kingdom

Knowledge of God	Content
<p>Knowledge of God (Doctrine 1) focuses on what we can know about God based on what he has revealed of himself to us in Scripture. An important part of this unit is examining the nature and authority of Scripture itself, in which the concept of covenant is central. In addition to examining God's sovereignty, power and Trinitarian nature, the unit also looks at the ideas of repentance, salvation and judgement.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Gospel of God 2. Knowing God 3. Sources for the knowledge of God 4. The Bible as the Word of God 5. The God we know (1) 6. The God we know (2):the Trinity 7. The God who creates 8.The God who saves 9. The God who rules history 10. The God who renews

Ephesians	Content
<p>Ephesians systematically works through Paul's letter to the Ephesians, showing that God's intention is to unify all things in Christ. While we wait for this intention to be completely fulfilled, God has already provided a living demonstration of this unity in the church, in which the fundamental distinction between Jew and Gentile has now been overcome. The unit unpacks the implications of this unity for individuals, the church and the whole creation.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why write to the Ephesians 2. The big picture of God's salvation 3. The Christian and the Church 4. The mystery in focus 5. The new humanity: in church 6. The new humanity: the old self and the new self 7. The new humanity: out of darkness into light 8. The new humanity: living by God's wisdom 9. The new humanity: living in the overlap of the ages 10. To sum up all things in Christ

Level 2

Former Prophets	Content
<p>Core Unit. In the Former Prophets (Old Testament 2) we examine the experience of Israel from original conquest of the land to her eventual exile, as recounted in the books of Joshua, Judges, 1 & 2 Samuel and 1 & 2 Kings. This period provides us with a glimpse of what it means for God's people to live securely in God's place, guided by his king and prophets and so informs how we understand the Kingdom of God and the New Testament promise of an eternal inheritance.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction to the Former Prophets 2. The book of Joshua 3. The book of Judges 4. 1 Samuel 1 – 12: the beginning of the monarchy 5. 1 Samuel 13 – 21 6. 2 Samuel 7. 1 Kings 1 – 11 8. 1 Kings 12 – 2 Kings 17: Israel and Judah 9. 1 Kings 17 – 2 Kings 13 10. 2 Kings 18 – 25

Acts	Content
<p>Core Unit. Acts (New Testament 2) illustrates how the spread of the gospel in the early decades of the church was directed by the risen Christ. In particular, this unit shows how the spread of the gospel fulfilled the Old Testament expectations about God's blessing the whole world through his people the Jews. Particular attention is paid to how the ministries of Peter and Paul took God's plan to bless all people to a new stage.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction to the Acts of the Apostles 2. The beginning of the Church 3. The Church and the Jewish authorities 4. The Church begins to expand 5. The beginnings of the Gentiles mission 6. The mission to Asia Minor and its repercussions 7. Paul's missionary campaign in Macedonia & Achaia 8. Paul's missionary campaign in Asia Minor 9. Paul's arrest and imprisonment Part 1 10. Paul's arrest and imprisonment Part 2

Christ and His Work	Content
Core Unit. Christ and His Work (Doctrine 2) focuses on what we know about the identity of Christ and what he accomplished, especially on the cross. This includes introducing students to theological approaches to understanding how Christ's humanity relates to his divinity. Understanding this is important for understanding what Christ did in his death and resurrection. Included in the investigation of the cross is an examination of the nature and effects of sin.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adam: man of dust 2. Adam: man in sin 3. Christ: the man from heaven 4. Christ crucified 5. Christ exalted 6. The Spirit of God 7. The call of God 8. Turning to God 9. The justice of God 10. God's choice

Early Church History	Content
Core Unit. Early Church History covers the history of the church through its first five centuries, introducing students to the theological debates that ultimately led to the formal statements of Christian faith contained in the great creeds. This period also displays the many practical challenges the church faced as a minority population in a context that often presented Christians with a choice between holding to their faith and death.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction to Early Church History 2. Apostles and 'Apostolic Fathers' 3. Challengers and champions: heresies in the first centuries 4. Christian life: 2nd and 3rd centuries 5. The hour of trial: persecutions of the early church 6. The new era: accepted and respected 7. Trinitarian controversies 8. Men and women of east and west 9. The road to Chalcedon: Christological controversies 10. Popes, monks and missionaries

Level 3

Latter Prophets	Content
Core Unit. The Latter Prophets (Old Testament 3) introduces the 'writing' prophets God sent to Israel leading up to, during and after the exiles that Israel experienced. In the Latter Prophets students encounter a wide range of topics and literary styles. Prominent in this material are warnings about coming judgement and promises of future redemption and blessing, although a special emphasis is placed on the promise of a new covenant that finds its fulfilment in the gospel.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The prophets in historical and canonical context 2. The prophets in theological context 3. Overview of Isaiah 4. Isaiah 1 – 39 5. Isaiah 40 – 66 6. Jeremiah 7. Ezekiel 8. The book of the Twelve 1 9. The book of the Twelve 2 10. The book of the Twelve 3

Pauline Letters	Content
Core Unit. The Pauline Letters (New Testament 3) collects together Paul's letters (except Romans) and introduces students to the distinctive language, theology and style of the apostle to the Gentiles. It covers the wide range of theological issues found in Paul's work such as ethical guidance about proper Christian conduct, teaching on church leadership and governance, theological reflections on the nature of Christ and the expositions of the relationship of Law and grace.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction to Paul's letters 2. Paul and the gospel 3. The defence of the gospel of grace 4. The nature of Christian freedom 5. Paul the pastor 6. Problems at Corinth 7. The apostolic ministry 8. Philippians and Ephesians 9. Fullness of life in Christ 10. The Pastoral Epistles

The Church

Content

Core Unit. The Church (Doctrine 3) focuses on the doctrine of the Church along with some aspects of worship. The overarching theme is the place of the church in the purposes of God. This leads to discussions of both the fundamental nature of the church along with discussions of fellowship in the church and the continuity of the church. The aspects of worship of particular relevance to these discussions are the Lord's Supper and Baptism.

1. The church (1): the nature of the church
2. The church (2): God's calling of the church
3. The church (3): the fellowship of the church
4. The church (4): the continuity of the church
5. The church (5): the church and the denominations
6. Christian worship
7. The Lord's Supper
8. Baptism
9. The ministry
10. False ministries

Reformation Church History

Content

Core Unit. Reformation Church History covers the history of the church during the period of the reformation. It introduces students to the late medieval religious context from which the reformation grew and draws attention to the theological importance of the reformation led by Martin Luther. It also covers the Catholic response to the reformation along with the connection between political and theological reform, especially in Switzerland and Tudor England.

1. The medieval background
2. Martin Luther
3. Lay reformation in the cities
4. The radical reformation
5. John Calvin and international Calvinism
6. The papal reformation
7. The monarchical reformation in England
8. Liturgical reformation and Marion counter reformation
9. Elizabethan England and international Protestantism
10. Scotland and Presbyterianism

PTC Electives

Apologetics

Content

Elective Unit. Apologetics is written with the conviction that apologetics is more than just intellectual and philosophical debate. Apologetics involves people's whole beings. Modern apologists need to be concerned with how people feel toward Christ and the gospel as well as how they think about Christ and the gospel. As a result the unit provides outlines of standard apologetic arguments along with practical help guidance on the correct attitude and behaviour that must accompany those arguments.

1. The Christian apologist
2. Varieties of approach
3. Faith and reason
4. Concepts of truth
5. Arguing for the existence of God
6. Intellectual barriers to faith: traditional questions
7. Intellectual barriers to faith: alternative world views
8. Intellectual barriers to faith: Christian doctrines
9. Personal barriers to faith
10. Apologetics in action

Apostolic Writings

Content

Elective Unit. Apostolic Writings (New Testament 4) provides an overview of the non-Pauline letters. It introduces students to the wide range of literary styles and theological concerns found in these letters, such as the Christian attitude to suffering, the relationship of Christ's sacrificial work to the Old Testament Law and the Christian expectation of the 'end times'. Special attention is given to Hebrews, Revelation and 1 Peter.

1. Introduction to Hebrews
2. Hebrew 1 – 4
3. Hebrew 5 – 10
4. Hebrews 10:19 – 13:25
5. The Epistle of James
6. 1 Peter 1 – 2
7. 1 Peter 3 – 5
8. Jude and 2 Peter
9. Revelation 1 – 3
10. Revelation 4 – 22

Christian Ethics	Content
<p>Elective Unit. Christian Ethics explores the foundations of Christian ethics, taking as its foundation the grace found in the gospel and extending from there to consider the status of moral rules in general, the importance of motivation and the role of conscience in ethical decision-making. The course address both the positive and negative aspects of Christian ethics and once a solid theoretical foundation has been laid examines some contemporary ethical issues from a Christian standpoint.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An introduction to ethics 2. Using the Bible in ethics 3. Doing normative ethics 4. The unity of Christian ethics: the mutual love ethic 5. The unity of Christian ethics: five things that matter 6. Ethical passages: the Sermon on the Plain (Lk 6:17-49) 7. Ethical issues: relationships and sexuality 8. Ethical issues: relationships and society 9. Ethical issues: ethics at the extremes of life 10. Ethical issues: making disciples of all nations

Christian Worship	Content
<p>Elective Unit. Christian Worship explores how we can best worship God with a particular emphasis on how we should think about what happens when we gather together in worship. We begin by tracing the origins of worship through the Old Testament sacrificial system, moving on to consider the changes brought to worship by the gospel. With this groundwork laid the subject considers topics such as the use of music and liturgy in public worship gatherings.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Worship in the Old Testament 2. Worship under the New Covenant 3. Why the early Christians met together 4. Worship in heaven and on earth 5. The Lord's Supper 6. The development of liturgies 7. Modern service alternatives 8. Hearing God's word 9. Praying together 10. Singing together

John	Content
<p>Elective Unit. This unit focuses solely on John's Gospel examining its distinctive content and style. Through a close reading of the text, the distinctive features of John that are drawn out include the concepts of 'life' and 'discipleship'. Specifically, what does it mean to 'live' or 'abide' in Jesus, and what does being a disciple of Jesus actually require?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Word of God becomes flesh, John 1 2. From Cana to Cana 3. Deciding about Jesus, John 5 – 6 4. The light of the world, John 7 – 9 5. My sheep hear my voice, John 10 – 12 6. Abide in me, John 13:1 – 15:17 7. In that day, John 15:18 – 17:26 8. In my place condemned he stood, John 18:1 – 19:42 9. Resurrection, John 20:1 – 21:23 10. A fourth gospel

Prayer Book	Content
<p>Elective Unit. Prayer Book explores the liturgy of the Anglican churches, and especially the role of the Prayer Book in providing a structure for that liturgy. The unit has an historical aspect, tracing the development of the Prayer Book from the pre-Reformation form to its contemporary form and noting the political and cultural forces that informed this development. It also has a theological aspect, using theological concepts to explain why the Prayer Book has the precise form it does.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Worship and edification in the Bible 2. Worship and edification in the Prayer Book 3. The first English Prayer Book 4. The second English Prayer Book 5. The Prayer Book from 1552 to 1662 6. Modern Anglican Prayer Books 7. Morning and Evening Prayer 8. The Lord's Supper 9. Baptism and Confirmation 10. Occasional services

Romans	Content
<p>Elective Unit. This unit examines Paul's most important theological work, his letter to the Romans. Students will be introduced to Paul's thinking on the concepts of sin, grace, law, judgement, predestination, salvation and blessing. Students are also introduced to another important central concern in Romans, that is the ongoing place of the Jews in God's plans.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The background of the letter 2. Why we need the gospel 3. How God meets our need 4. The fruit of justification 5. The Christian and sin 6. The Christian and God's law 7. Life in the Spirit 8. The problem of Israel's unbelief 9. Jews and Gentiles in the plan of God 10. Love in action

Wisdom and Exile	Content
<p>Elective Unit. Wisdom and Exile (Old Testament 4) focuses on those sections of the Old Testament devoted to the perennial questions and concerns of God's people at any time. This includes books devoted to living well in God's world (the Hebrew concept of 'wisdom'), liturgical literature that helps us see how to bring our whole lives, both joyous and painful, before God and finally the Old Testament works that explicitly look forward to the 'end times'.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction to the writings 2. The Psalms: an overview 3. Selected psalms 4. Wisdom in Israel 5. The book of Proverbs 6. The Song of Songs and Ruth 7. The book of Job 8. Ecclesiastes and Lamentations 9. Apocalyptic in Israel 10. Daniel, Esther and the Apocrypha