

BIBLE PROGRAM PLAN¹ (2 TIM 2:1-2)

Introduction

Purpose is to strengthen assemblies and believers by

- preaching Christ and the gospel to saved and unsaved alike
- building up believers by teaching
 - o the fundamentals of the Christian faith
 - o the fundamentals of Christian living
 - o the Word of God
- teaching principles that characterize a healthy assembly

The Goal

- To see unbelievers come to faith in Christ
- To produce mature, fruitful believers who have a deep love for Christ and the Word of God
- To produce healthy, biblical assemblies that are Christ-centered, Bible-focused, and Pilgrim in character

Program Structure

- This is only a guide
 - o The program can be adjusted (tweaked) to meet various needs
 - o The material presented here is material that each generation is responsible to teach and practice
 - o It ought to be the responsibility of the local assembly to pass on “the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints.” (Jude 3 NET)
 - o Mature believers should find ways to disciple younger believers in these truths
 - o At times, assemblies ought to co-operate together to effectively pass on these truths.
- Recommendations
 - o Organize the program 5-7 times per year
 - o Each program should have 3-5 sessions AND a session for questions/comments
 - o Casual/informal atmosphere, with food provided
 - o Teaching style dependent on the teacher (lecture, interactive, inductive, visual aids)
 - o Each program can have one teacher or plurality of teachers who are able to connect to the audience, not just teach
 - o Sessions could be broken up into smaller seminars running at the same time (this would require more than one teacher)

¹Notes from Mark A. Swaim, 2017. These notes have been tweaked by brethren from 8 different countries. The Krakow Bible Program has been running since 2007. This document is an attempt to organize the program into a curriculum that can be used in other places. It is only a guide. It can be tailored to be used in a Home Bible Study, an assembly Sunday School, a discipleship program etc. (Revised 02 2018; 05 2018)

- There is enough material here for about 10-15 years
 - o There are important topics **NOT** on this list. Some topics would be taught as they come up in the Word of God
- What seems to work in our generation and what we learned in Krakow
 - o Teachers and organizers need to build relationships with the students. This generation is a relational generation. It is important not just to teach, but to show care and listen to students
 - o Millennials or Generation Y (born between 1981 and 2000) are more receptive than previous generations to learning that exists as a function of a meaningful relationship.²
 - o The students were happy to be able to ask questions and get answers to their questions about Christianity
 - o Continual reminders of upcoming meetings via email, phone and personal encouragement

The basics of Christianity

The Person (Doctrine) of Christ

- His Names
 - o Jesus, Emmanuel, Rabbi, Christ, Logos, I Am, Son of God, Son of Man, Son of David, Savior, Shepherd, High Priest, [Lord](#)
- Christology
 - o John 1:1
 - o John 1:14
 - o [Philippians 2](#)
 - o [Colossians 1](#)
 - o Hebrews 1–2
 - o Deity of Christ
 - o [The Lordship of Christ](#)
 - o Humanity of Christ
 - o Incarnation of Christ
 - o Matthew 3–4
- The Person of Jesus
 - o Virgin Birth
 - o Why He came: To reveal God and save people
 - o Sinless and exemplary (model) Life
 - o Miracles of Jesus

² Full quote: “Because young adults think differently than their parents and grandparents, churches may need to think differently if they are to reach them. Rather than communicating through dogmatism, which they tend to reject, we need to work through relationships. Millennials are more receptive than previous generations to learning that exists as a function of a meaningful relationship.” Nathan Hoff in “Israel my Glory” 09/2017

- Death
- [Resurrection](#)
- Exaltation
- His 2nd Coming
- His Work
 - As Savior
 - As Shepherd
 - As Prophet
 - As Priest
 - As King

The Person of the Holy Spirit

- [In the Old Testament](#)
- [In the life of Christ](#)
- [Work of the Holy Spirit today](#) (including, but not limited to the following):
 - [The baptism of the Holy Spirit \(1 Corinthians 12:12-14\)](#)
 - [The Filling of the Holy Spirit \(Ephesians 5:18\)](#)
 - The gifts of the Holy Spirit
 - Biblical verses unbiblical teaching on the Holy Spirit

Salvation

- [What happens in salvation](#)
- [Eternal Security](#)
- [Saved from Sin; Saved by Christ; What Salvation produces](#)
- Heaven and Hell (Eternal life and Eternal Punishment)
- God the Father, Human Nature, Righteous works, Repentance, and the Cross of Christ
- Passages in Scripture that teach the gospel

Sanctification

- [The Work of Sanctification](#)
- Characteristics of a Genuine Believer
 - Characteristics from [Hebrews](#)
 - Characteristics from [1 John](#)
 - Characteristics from [James](#)
- The gospel and the undoing of the wreckage (destruction) of sin ([Romans 5-8](#))
 - Overcoming the reign of sin
- Spiritual growth and discipleship
 - Baptism
 - The Preeminence of Christ in the believer's life
 - [The Christ-centered life of the believer](#)
 - [Abiding in Christ \(John 15\)](#)
 - The importance of [the Word of God](#) (Psalm 119:11)
 - The importance of [the pilgrim life](#)
 - United with believers, set apart for Christ

- Living in the world, but not of it
 - Separate (set apart) from sinners
- [The importance of prayer](#)
- [The Treasure of the Believer](#) (2 Cor 4:1-7)
- Spirit beings (Angels, Demons, Satan) and Spiritual Warfare
- [How God guides \(searching for God's will\)](#)
 - The will of God: Our Sanctification
- Biblical Counseling (depression, grief, addiction, overcoming the reign of sin...)
- [Marriage, Relationships, and the Family](#)
- Evidence for Faith (apologetics)

The Lord's Coming

- The Doctrine of the Lord's Coming
 - Distinguishing Israel and the Church
 - The Decrees of Daniel 9 (God's Timetable)
 - The Rapture
 - The Relevance of Revelation - Has it, Is it, or Will it be Fulfilled?
 - The Believer and Personal Holiness in Light of the Lord's Return
 - The Believer and Assembly Testimony in Light of the Lord's Return
 - The Believer and the World/Gospel in Light of the Lord's Return

The Church

[Universal Characteristics](#)

- The Scriptures as the only guide
- The Church is separate from the world
- [The unity of the Church](#)
- The head of the Church
- The purpose of the Church
- The Pilgrim Church: [Christ centered](#), [Bible Focused](#), Pilgrim in character
 - [Tracing the history of such movements from the 1st century](#)

[Local Characteristics](#)

- What is a biblical or NT assembly?
 - Principles found in Acts 2:42
 - Gathering to be with Christ
 - Autonomy and interdependency
 - [Christ centered Churches](#)
- Teaching in the Assembly (The apostle's doctrine)
 - The principle is found throughout the New Testament
- Fellowship with Christ and with one another (the Table of the Lord)
 - Relationship between local churches (Unity and Separation)
 - What the New Testament says about fellowship

- [Worship and the Lord's Supper](#) (The Breaking of Bread)
 - o Principles of worship
 - o The symbols of the bread and the cup
- [Prayer and the assembly](#) (Dependency on Christ)
 - o What the New Testament teaches about Prayer and Fasting
- [The headship of Christ](#) (the authority of the local assembly)
 - o Christ is the ultimate authority
 - o The *symbols* of headship (distinct roles)
- [Priesthood of all believers](#) (and the gifts of Spirit) and the role of men and women
 - o Everything in an assembly should not be done by 1 man or a few men
 - o The practice of the priesthood of *all* believers should be evident in all our gatherings:
 - Multiple teachers, participation
 - Active and true fellowship with all
 - o Priesthood extends to all believers, not just men.
 - Thus, given the roles within the assembly, we are to find ways to encourage men and women to use their gifts in and out of the assembly in practical ways so it can be evident that the assembly is vibrant and all within and without can see that each member is important and contributing in some way to the assembly.
 - o What is the role of a male priest
 - (Including how to prepare sermons / lead a Bible study)
 - o [What is the role of a female priest](#)
- [Plurality of Elders and Deacons \(Servant / humble Leadership\)](#)
 - o Different leadership styles in Church History
 - o The challenge and responsibility of passing responsibility to the next generation
- Importance of Evangelism and Missions (the command to GO)
 - o [The treasure that believers have](#) (2 Cor 4:7)
 - o Good works and the Church (serving others)
 - o The call of the church to help the poor, the outcast, the oppressed (to exhibit the character of Christ in this world)
 - o Fishing in new places (Finding new opportunities to witness for Christ)
- Assembly Discipline (Ministry of reconciliation)
- Baptism (a symbol of salvation, identification, and union with Christ)
- Revival and the lessons of History
 - o The need for revival (4 generations)
 - o Personal revival
 - o Revival in the Word of God
 - o Characteristics of Biblical revival
- The Problem with generations
 - o Principles of gathering cannot change. We have no right to change them. But style, culture, circumstances, structures do change and will change
 - o Principles do not answer the question of style or structure: what time our meetings should be or how to arrange the meetings or how long they should be. They do not

- tell us whether we should have a Sunday school or midweek meeting or musical instruments or type of music.
- Cultural issues affect the Church and need to be address: i.e. marriage; the rise of a Post-Modern generation; Science; changes in the Law, etc. Principles need to survive, not our buildings, tax status, current structures.
 - The assembly / local church is not a social club. It is a body, a living organism
 - Often the battle is not over doctrine, but over style and structure and that is sad. Should there be a traditional style or a progressive style? This has nothing to do with doctrine. There is a need for strong and good teaching in this area so that our gatherings are based on unchanging biblical principles, and there is freedom in style and structure
- The problem with human institutions / organizations
 - Men try to control the assembly
 - Organizations do the work that the assembly is responsible to do
 - The difference between biblical and political ecumenicalism

The Word of God

Overview of Scripture

- Major themes in Scripture
- Major characters in Scripture

Overview of Old Testament

- Includes overview of the 5 books of Moses
 - Genesis: [Creation](#) to [Abraham](#)
 - Genesis: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph
 - Exodus, [Leviticus](#), Numbers, [Deuteronomy](#): Moses, Wilderness Journey (includes Sinai, Priesthood, Offerings, Feasts, Tabernacle)
- Includes overview of Old Testament History
 - [Joshua](#)
 - [Judges](#) and Ruth
 - [Kings and captivity](#)
- Includes overview of the Prophets
- Includes overview of Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon
- Includes overview of books of the Old Testament
- Includes Christ in the Old Testament

Overview of NT

- Includes an overview of the four gospels and the life of Christ
 - The Gospel of Matthew
 - [The Gospel of Mark](#)
 - The Gospel of Luke
 - The Gospel of John

- Includes [the book of Acts](#)
 - o The geographic spread of Christianity (via maps, and matching letters to structure of Acts)
 - o The book of Acts tells us of the workings of the Holy Spirit at the beginning of the Church Age in the lives of some early believers. It gives us a glimpse into the working of the Holy Spirit in the 1st century during the time when the New Testament was not yet complete. It also gives insights into the working of the Holy Spirit in the age the Church. Acts provides us with an understanding of how the Spirit of God works in the life of the Church.
- Includes overview of the letters of the New Testament written by Paul
 - o Romans
 - o 1 Corinthians
 - o [2 Corinthians](#)
 - o Galatians
 - o Ephesians (including topics such as [Election, the filling of the Holy Spirit](#))
 - o [Philippians](#)
 - o [Colossians](#)
 - o [1 and 2 Thessalonians](#)
 - o 1 Timothy
 - o [2 Timothy](#)
 - o Titus
 - o Philemon
- Includes overview of [the letter of Hebrews](#) ([see also this resource](#))
- Includes [overview of the letters written by James](#)
- Includes overview of [1 Peter](#), [2 Peter](#) and Jude
- Includes overview of [1 John](#), 2 John, 3 John
- Includes [overview of the book of Revelation](#)
 - o [Includes the 7 Churches of Revelation 1-3](#)

Systems of interpretation

- Hermeneutics (how to study the Bible)
- Dispensationalism and other systems of interpretation
- Prophecy, End times/last things
 - o God's Calendar: 7 Feasts (Leviticus 23), 7 Parables (Matthew 13), 7 Churches (Revelation 2-3)
- False teaching / divisive doctrines