

Basic Training in the Bible

Andrew Stepp | Esther

Why does this class exist?

- We need training, and we need the community. Those are powerful tools in the hands of the Holy Spirit!
- This is a training ground.
- This is an invitation to dig into God's Word.
- This is an opportunity to build a framework that can help us to mine familiar texts for the deeper treasures and equip us to wade through the deeper, more challenging texts.

What should you expect?

- An overview of each book, tips on what to look for, & a reading plan for the week.
- Opportunities for you to give me feedback
- Opportunities for you to shape the curriculum.
- Community – “This is NOT a discussion class... but it doesn't mean we can't be friends.”

What do I expect from you?

- Do your best to be present! → Either physically or electronically
- Read your Bible!
- Interact with the text → Mark it up!
- Share with me what you're learning – what's surprising, frustrating, comforting, exhilarating, confusing or all of the above!
- Consider joining a small group

What is my hope for this class?

- For you to grow! ...And for me to grow!
- To KNOW Scripture – Jesus knew Scripture, obviously... but his audience and Paul's audience and Peter's audience KNEW Scripture. The more you know Scripture the more alive it becomes!
- For the Holy Spirit to shape our hearts as we spend time in his Word.
- Ultimately To grow in our Christ-likeness

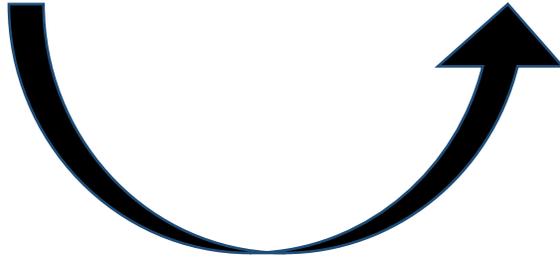
Four Key Resources:

- *How to Read the Bible Book by Book* by Fee and Stuart
- *Eerdmans' Handbook to the Bible*
- *How to Read the Bible for All It's Worth* by Fee and Stuart
- *The Bible Speaks Today* commentary series

Esther

Context:

The Plot:



The Main Characters:

- King Xerxes: 29x

- Esther: 48x

- Mordecai: 54x

- Haman: 49x

The Secret to Esther!

“Providence is God’s attention concentrated everywhere.”

Romans 8:28 -- We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose..

This Week’s Readings:

Esther = 10 chapters

- 2 chapters/day
- 1-2, 3-4, 5-7, 8-10
- Read it all in one sitting.

If you are interested in joining a **small group** contact Catie Smith csmith@fpchouston.org
If you want to know more about how to get involved at FPC, talk to Andrew Stepp astepp@fpchouston.org.