

Living Our Faith: Exploring the New Testament – Course Welcome

Attn: Registered Participants in Exploring the New Testament

Introduction:

Thank-you for enrolling in Exploring the New Testament, a unit of the Living Our Faith Series. Studying the New Testament can be a daunting task, but at the same time it can be a life-giving, faith-building and fulfilling experience.

This course will run over two weekends:

14–15 April *and* 28–29 April 2018

at the: Centre for Ministry

[16 Masons Drive, North Parramatta.](#)

Each day will start at 9am sharp and end by 5:30pm – earlier if possible. Please be prompt in order to assist with keeping to schedule. As this course is part of the necessary accreditation for becoming a Lay Preacher in the Uniting Church in Australia, every session must be attended. Being more than 30 minutes late for any session may place your final certificate in jeopardy. Discuss any needs with the course facilitator as soon as possible.

Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea will be provided.

Please bring with you: Bible, textbooks, notebook, pen, highlighter, and/or your preferred internet enabled device. You will be informed of the centre's free Wi-Fi password upon arrival.

Your pre-course reading and written reflection tasks must be completed before the first day of the course; Saturday 14 April, as per the attached Assignment Book (see the final paragraph, below, for more details). You will also receive a Student Workbook when you arrive on the first day. Please bring both these books to all sessions of the course.

No accommodation has been booked, but if you would like to make a booking enquiry, please contact Uniting Venues directly – Ph: 1300 138 125 / Email: service@unitingvenues.org whilst mentioning that your enquiry is related to your attendance at this course.

Textbooks:

The text book for this course is the same one that is used for Exploring the Old Testament: Gordon Fee & Douglas Stuart, *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth*. The pre-course reading task requires you to reflect on the first chapter of Fee and Stuart. Another optional, but very helpful resource that you may have from previous Living Our Faith courses is *The Lion Handbook to the Bible*: edited by Pat & David Alexander, while two useful introduction texts to this course are: PHEME PERKINS' *Reading the New Testament: An Introduction*, and Walter Ewell & Robert Yarbrough's *Encountering the New Testament*.

These books can be bought from most book distributors, or you can buy them from the Centre for Ministry before the course starts. If you can't get to CFM in-person, they are also available to be purchased online via the [Exploring the New Testament](#) page on the UME website, but posting and handling costs are added to the cost of the books. Once your order is completed copies will be posted to your nominated postal address.

Required Textbook	Cost, when purchased in-person*
<i>How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth, 3rd edition*</i> , Gordon Fee & Douglas Stuart, Zondervan, 2003 * If 3 rd edition is unavailable, the 4 th edition will suffice.	\$20
Recommended Textbooks	
<i>Reading the New Testament: An Introduction</i> , Pheme Perkins, Paulist Press NY, 2012	\$24
<i>Encountering the New Testament: A Historical and Theological Survey, 3rd Edition</i> Walter Ewell & Robert Yarbrough, Baker Academic, Grand Rapids, 2013	\$45
Another useful text for Living Our Faith	
<i>The Lion Handbook to the Bible, 4th or 5th edition</i> , Lion: Hudson, 2009/17, Pat and David Alexander (eds)	\$28

Pre-course Written Reflection and Reading Task

To help you prepare, there is a written reflection and pre-course reading activity that must be completed *before* you come to the first day of the course – see the attached reading from Fee & Stuart [PDF 8 pages, 642 KB], and also the written reflection tasks in the attached Assignment Book (PDF 32 pages, 979 KB) i.e. Task A: Initial Reflections, Part 1 and Part 2.

It is really important that you complete this reading and reflection before the start of the course because it covers some of the basic ideas and concepts that the lessons contained in the rest of the course will expand on and flesh out. The written task is to be completed in the attached Assignment Book. If you would prefer, you can write the reflections on a separate sheet of paper, and then staple them onto the relevant pages of the Assignment Book when you submit it for marking.

* Copies of each of these books are available to purchase in-person at the Student Administration counter at the Centre for Ministry, North Parramatta (Ph: 02 8838 8914). *A Postage, Handling and Processing fee will be added to online purchases needing to be mailed out.*

I look forward to seeing you at 9am on the first day of the course. Should you have any further queries, please feel free to contact myself, or the UME Administration team.

Sincerely,

Rev Duncan Macleod

Exploring the New Testament Course Convenor

Uniting Mission and Education | The Uniting Church in Australia | Synod of NSW & ACT

16 Masons Drive, North Parramatta NSW 2151

t 02 8838 8912