

## **Joshua Online Descriptor**

### **Module 1: Bible Introduction and Foundations (20 Hours)**

Knowledge of the Bible is vital in growing in our Christian faith, so Joshua starts with looking at the Old and New Testaments. Module 1 gives an overview of the Bible including its foundations and origins, how it is organised and how it came to be in the form we have it today. The module then goes on to survey the Old Testament examining its historical background, its human authors and the types of literature it contains, discussing key elements and characters within the Old Testament.

#### *Indicative Content:*

Class Time	10 Hours
Reading	5 Hours
Assignment	2 Hours
Exercises	3 Hours

### **Module 2: Unpacking the Bible's Message (20 Hours)**

Module 2 includes a survey of the New Testament, discussing the context and authors of the books within it. This module looks at Jesus' ministry as seen in the Gospels and the birth and early development of the church through the book of Acts, the Epistles and Revelation. The second part of Module 2 introduces hermeneutics, how to interpret the Bible so as to unpack its message, and then looks at how to best develop an understanding of the Epistles and the Gospels.

#### *Indicative Content:*

Class Time	10 Hours
Reading	5 Hours
Assignment	2 Hours
Exercises	3 Hours

### **Module 3: Preaching the Good News (20 Hours)**

Interpreting the Bible and preaching go hand-in-hand so in Module 3 there is an introduction to preaching the Good News clearly and faithfully as well as classes on how to interpret Old Testament narratives and wisdom literature.

*Indicative Content:*

Class Time	10 Hours
Reading	2 Hours
Assignment	5 Hours
Exercises	3 Hours

**Module 4: Exploring Luke's Writings (20 Hours)**

In Module 4 we explore the writings of Luke in his Gospel and in the book of Acts. This provides an opportunity to examine these books in more depth and identify the key ideas that Luke is wanting to convey.

*Indicative Content:*

Class Time	10 Hours
Reading	5 Hours
Assignment	2 Hours
Exercises	3 Hours

**Module 5: Spiritual Character Formation (10 Hours)**

In this module of the Joshua course, we examine spiritual formation looking at how we develop in our discipleship and relationship with God through spiritual disciplines and spending time with God.

*Indicative Content:*

Class Time	4 Hours
Reflection	2 Hours
Reading	2 Hours
Exercises	2 Hours

**Module 6 Digging Deeper in Theology (20 hours)**

In Module 6 focuses on theology, examining theology of God, Christ, the Holy Spirit and the end times. It discusses the importance of these key foundations of Christianity in understanding our faith.

*Indicative Content:*

Class Time	10 Hours
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Reading	2 Hours
Assignment	5 Hours
Exercises	3 Hours

### **Module 7 Knowing and Telling the Gospel (20 hours)**

In order to share what we believe with others, it is necessary understand what the gospel is and the best ways of telling it to others. Module 7 helps students to know the gospel and discusses effective ways in which this can be communicated to others.

#### *Indicative Content:*

Class Time	10 Hours
Reading	5 Hours
Assignment	3 Hours
Exercises	2 Hours

### **Module 8 Caring for Others (20 hours)**

Module 8 is concerned with pastoral care and leadership. It begins with discussing different aspects of how to care for others and show them God's love. It then goes on to examine models of Christian leadership. This module gives greater understanding of how to care for others within the church and lead them in a godly way.

#### *Indicative Content:*

Class Time	10 Hours
Reading	3 Hours
Assignment	5 Hours
Exercises	2 Hours

### **Module 9 Defending the Faith (20 hours)**

This module concerns how to build an argument which supports the Christian faith in the light of other belief systems. It discusses different approaches which can be taken and the beliefs of those who seek to oppose Christianity.

#### *Indicative Content:*

Class Time	10 Hours
Reading	4 Hours

Assignment 3 Hours

Exercises 3 Hours

### **Module 10 The Pastoral Epistles (10 hours)**

Module 10 involves a study of 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus and discusses what can be learned from them today. Following on from the two previous modules, it examines issues related to pastoral care and leadership as well as how to defend the Christian faith where others are preaching a false gospel.

*Indicative Content:*

Class Time 4 Hours

Reading 1 Hours

Assignment 4 Hours

Exercises 1 Hours

### **Reading**

This can include biblical passages, sections from text books and on-line articles. They can be given both before and during the module.

### **Assignments**

**Module 1:** Create a timeline to show the main events in Israel's history.

**Module 2:** Write a 500-word summary of the life of Jesus.

**Module 3:** Prepare and deliver a 10-minute sermon.

**Module 4:** Write a 1000-word paragraph on Luke's purpose in writing his gospel.

**Module 5:** Keep a spiritual journal for two weeks.

**Module 6:** Choose one of the titles given to Jesus and explain what it tells us about him (1000 words)

**Module 7:** Discuss how you would explain the gospel to a non-Christian friend in 500 words.

**Modules 8:** Explain how you would care for someone going through a bereavement (1000 words)

**Module 9:** Using bullet-points write the main ideas of an argument in favour of Christianity which you find convincing.

**Module 10:** Discuss what you have learned from the pastoral epistles about arguing against those who preach false doctrines (500 words).

### **Exercises**

For all modules, these could include short tests, group discussions, short reading and writing exercises, watching a video and responding to it etc. These would be devised by the lecturers as appropriate to the module involved.