

A CORNERSTONE TRAINING CENTER RESOURCE



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# Cornerstone Training Center

*The Cornerstone Training Center exists to equip God's people to effectively serve one another so that God's people become more and more like Jesus.*  
*- Ephesians 4:11-16*

## **Our Vision**

*To see all people experience new life in Christ by being disciples who make disciples.*

It is our strong conviction that in order to accomplish the vision that God has given us as a church we have to equip God's people to do God's work. The Cornerstone Training Center is a strategic and intentional process to equip God's people to do his work. We hope to provide our people with the opportunity to experience a level of training that they would receive if enrolled in an institute of continuing education for biblical studies. The end goal is to have disciples of Jesus who are confidently and effectively able to serve Christ in their homes, in their church, and in their world.

## **How does the Training Center help us fulfill our vision as a church?**

The Training Center provides an intentional pathway to help believers grow towards maturity in Christ. The Center's courses will help equip the disciple with an overview of the Biblical narrative, Biblical theology, and how to personally apply these truths to life and ministry. Our goal is to see the Training Center be Cornerstone's way of equipping and growing current leaders while at the same time developing and raising up new leaders to serve God and his people.

# Core Courses

## Foundations



A 3 Session course for exploring membership & partnership at Cornerstone.

## Bible Survey



A 12 Session course that will help you assemble the pieces of the Bible into one big picture.

## Old Testament Survey



A 12 Session course that surveys the Old Testament.

## New Testament Survey



A 12 Session course that surveys the New Testament.

## Systematic Theology



After having a good grasp of the biblical narrative, key people, and key themes Systematic Theology will help you draw out Christian beliefs from now familiar passages.

## Biblical Leadership



Jesus is the greatest leader the world has ever known or will know, period. This course will help you lead and serve like Jesus both inside and outside the church.

## Habits for Spiritual Growth



This course will cover biblical habits that are needed to enjoy your relationship with God and grow into the likeness of Jesus.

# Course Overview

## Bible Survey: A Big Screen Perspective

### GOALS

1. To memorize the books of the Old and New Testaments in chronological order.
2. To learn and be able to explain how the books of the Bible relate to one another by being able to draw a simple chart.
3. To learn who the major people, events, and themes are in each book and in the biblical narrative as a whole. The student will also be able to identify where these major people and events occur on a historical timeline.
4. To learn an overview of what took place during the 400 years to set the stage for Christ's coming between our Old and New Testaments.
5. To provide the student with a foundational understanding of the biblical books and their structure to build upon for a lifetime of personal study.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Attend and participate in 12 Sessions
2. Complete Weekly Exercises
3. Personally belong to a Cornerstone Group
4. Serve in the church on the Dream Team

### TEXTBOOKS

Bible & Student Book

# 1

## Describing the “Elephant”

In this first session, we’ll examine why having a “big screen” perspective for the entire Bible is so vital for all disciples and critical for those called to leadership. Through this journey, you’ll be introduced to the structure of your English Bible and how, in learning that structure, you can develop the skill necessary to manage the Bible’s content, purposes and applications throughout your life. You’ll also begin to learn how to use this big picture, Bible-management skill to enhance your own teaching and mentoring impact. Get your biblical track shoes on and get ready to run.

### I. THE IMPORTANCE OF PERSPECTIVE

### II. DESIRED OUTCOMES

III. EMPHASIS ON FUNCTION

IV. THE BIG PICTURE

Study the structure chart on the next page and jot notes on the following pages as your teacher leads you on this journey.

Bible (\_\_\_\_)

OT (\_\_\_\_)

NT (\_\_\_\_)

## SUMMARY

1. Foundations are like a \_\_\_\_\_ that sets the course for what follows.
2. The Historical Section depicts the living out (or not) of \_\_\_\_\_ things.
3. It may sometimes seem like the Historical books are written in a sporadic manner, but it's actually \_\_\_\_\_.
4. In the New Testament, the four books in the Foundations section are called the \_\_\_\_\_.
5. In the New Testament, how many books are in the Historical section? \_\_\_\_\_
6. In the New Testament Instructional sections, the documents are \_\_\_\_\_ to individuals and churches.
7. The poets and prophets worked together to \_\_\_\_\_ the people of God.
8. The Instructional Section doesn't extend the story, it \_\_\_\_\_ it.
9. The "Silent Years" refers to a period of time lasting how many years, between the end of the Old Testament and the beginning of the New Testament?



**TO REMEMBER**

- 1. The overall structure of the Bible (chart)
- 2. The number of books in each part
- 3. The key thoughts in the Session Summary

**FOR PRACTICE**

Work at writing out the chart until you can do it from memory.

# 2

## Setting the Compass

In our second session we'll explore the foundational books of the Old Testament. Known formally as the Pentateuch (literally, "the five books"), these writings set the course for our OT journey by helping us understand the characteristics of the history we'll examine later and the nature of the instruction being directed at the people living out that history. In these compass books we'll see the plan of God with respect to his creation and then with his people, Israel. We'll begin to understand how these writings reflect God's desire to redeem His people from the consequences of original sin and transplant His character into that redeemed people, with the larger goal to offer redemption to all of mankind.

### I. THREE KEY CONCEPTS/WORDS

#### A. Culture

**B. Creation**

**C. Character**

**II. GENERAL FLOW**

### III. SEVEN KEY PEOPLE

A. Adam

B. Noah

C. Abraham

D. Isaac

E. Jacob

F. Joseph

G. Moses

# IV. SEVEN KEY FOUNDATIONAL THEMES

A. Creation

B. Judgment

C. Redemption

D. People

E. Leaders

F. Character

G. Covenants

H. Promises

## **V. KEY WORD SUMMARY**

**A. Genesis**

**B. Exodus**

**C. Leviticus**

**D. Numbers**

**E. Deuteronomy**

## **REMEMBER**

1. Five foundational books (name the books and two big themes that go with each)
2. Seven key people (name the people and a key thought that goes with each)
3. Eight key themes (name the big themes for this section and a major thought that goes with each)
4. Two key themes for each foundational book

**PRACTICE**

Using a blank sheet of paper, write out the Bible structure chart from memory including naming the five foundational books.

**Bible (66)**

**OT (39)**

**NT (27)**

# 3

## Living the Law

A Christian writer recently observed, “. . . among next Christians – and many older Christians as well – a relationship with God today is framed exclusively around beliefs that make little difference in the way we live.” It’s not a new reality as our trip through the Historical Books reveals. Our journey through this section covers about 1000 years during which you’ll see that reality at work: when belief and real-life connect the result is a culture of life, health and power, and when belief and everyday life disconnect, the result is selfishness, sickness and chaotic weakness. The key to watch for in these 12 books is how the leaders and the people do in living out the foundational things recorded in Genesis through Deuteronomy.

### REVIEW THE FOUNDATIONAL BOOKS

Two key thoughts for each book

Genesis		
---------	--	--



Exodus		
Leviticus		
Numbers		
Deuteronomy		

**HISTORICAL BOOKS (12)**

Here we'll break this 12-book section into 5 smaller units to help us remember the flow of this history and the emphases along this 1000-year journey. We'll work through this section a couple of times so be patient in your note-taking!

**I. UNIT 1**

Pre-Kings: Joshua – Ruth, a period in which there are leaders, but there are NO KINGS in Israel

**A. Joshua**

Leads the people of God after the death of:

**B. Judges**

**C. Ruth:**

**II. UNIT 2 KINGS UNITED: 1 AND 2 SAMUEL, 1 KINGS  
AND 1 CHRONICLES**

A period in which three kings rule over a UNITED Israel

**A. Samuel is a prophet and anoints the first:**

**B. Three kings during this time were:**

### III. UNIT 3 – KINGS DIVIDED: 2 KINGS, 2 CHRONICLES,

A period in which the families of Israel become DIVIDED  
into two kingdoms, Israel and Judah

#### A. Israel, \_\_\_\_\_ kings

All about:

How did they and the nation do with the foundational  
things?

#### B. Judah, \_\_\_\_\_ kings

Mostly about:

How did they and the nation do with the foundational  
things?

## **IV. UNIT 4 – JUDGMENT/EXILE**

Latter portions of 2 Kings and 2 Chronicles, a period in which God's JUDGMENT on Israel and Judah finds Israel's people SCATTERED throughout the Assyrian empire and later Judah's leaders and key people in EXILE in Babylonia.

### **A. Assyria**

\_\_\_\_\_ removed from the land and  
scattered

### **B. Babylonia**

\_\_\_\_\_ conquered and taken into exile

### **C. Persia**

\_\_\_\_\_ allowed to return to the land

# **V. UNIT 5 – RETURN**

Ezra – Esther, which recount the experiences of the people of Judah as they RETURN TO THE LAND.

**A. Ezra gives his life to**

**B. Nehemiah gives his life to**

**C. Esther puts her life on the line to**

## REMEMBER

1. Commit the names of the 12 books and 8 key people to memory plus the following two principles for the Historical Books.
2. As the leadership goes, so go the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Jesus later establishes the new covenant by paying with his \_\_\_\_\_.

# 4

## Soul Food of the Poets

The Instructional Section (Job – Malachi) contains 22 books that we'll break into two units: Poetical Books (5) and Prophetical Books (17). In the Foundational Section we engaged God's compass-setting for his people and in the Historical Section we observed how the people did in relationship to the compass. In this section, we'll see the peoples' experience through the eyes of the poets, examine heart issues in that experience and feel both the encouragement and correction of good instruction. Welcome to the poets! Get ready for some soul food.

### I. HISTORICAL REVIEW

- The structural chart for the OT
- Books of the Historical Section
- Four subsections of the HS
- 8 Key People
  - Joshua
  - Samuel

- Saul
- David
- Solomon
- Ezra
- Nehemiah
- Esther

## **II. INSTRUCTIONAL SECTION, POETIC**

### **A. Job 19:25**

Two key words are:

### **B. Psalm 23**

The key theme is:



### **C. Proverbs 3:5-6**

Proverbs is described as \_\_\_\_\_ literature.

### **D. Ecclesiastes 3:1-3**

The conclusion of Ecclesiastes is \_\_\_\_\_ God  
and keep his \_\_\_\_\_ .

### **E. Song of Solomon 8:6-7**

Key words are \_\_\_\_\_ and "marriage."

## REMEMBER

1. Names of the 5 Poetical books plus those from the Foundational and Historical sections; the key themes of each of the Poetical books; and the following three leadership principles.
2. Sovereignty says listen, learn and lean on the Lord as you may not see the whole story in times of trouble or blessing.
3. Worship has many facets, all of which should be understood and practiced.
4. Helping keep God in His proper place in peoples' lives is a leader's main calling.
5. Paying attention to foundational things is about the people of God staying in tune with the program of God so that the promises of God are fulfilled in their lives and in the future.

## Bible (66)

OT (39)

An empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for notes related to the Old Testament (39 books).

NT (27)

An empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for notes related to the New Testament (27 books).

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# 5

## Will Power of the Prophets

The instruction of the prophets falls along two lines: the rewards for doing right (fulfilling foundational things) in God's eyes and the necessary corrections when "wrong" becomes part of the picture. Within that paradigm we'll find mixtures of judgment and promise, encouragement and warning, present and future. The prophets, an interesting lot often called on to not just speak but to live out their prophecies, consistently call the people of Israel to craft their present-day realities in light of the foundational aspects of Scripture and the future hope of promise. If you think of the poetical books as revealing the heart of the people in their history, then it would be equally helpful to think of the prophetic books as revealing the heart of God in that history.

### I. PROPHETIC BOOKS

All fit in the context found in 1 and 2 Kings, 1 and 2 Chronicles, Ezra and Nehemiah; that period would extend roughly from 970 BC to 430 BC.

A. Historical Context Chart

Pre-Exile Prophets	Exile Prophets	Post-Exile Prophets
To Israel	To Judah in Exile	To Judah upon return
To Assyria	Messages: How to live in light of judgment:	
	Take encouragement from God’s promises	Messages:  Rebuild and restore the people, the land, and key relationships (especially with God)
To Edom		
To Judah		
Messages: Repent. Judgment		

**B. A key word that should be associated with Ezekiel's imagery of dry bones is:**

**C. Daniel can be described as \_\_\_\_\_ because he shows us how he responds to the pressure he faced to become like the Babylonians.**

## **II. POST-EXILE PROPHETS**

These prophets are all about 3 words that begin with the letter "R": \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

## **III. PRE-EXILE PROPHETS**

These prophets are \_\_\_\_\_ people that if they don't change the way they are living, judgment will result.

## IV. THEMES OF THE PROPHETS

1. They spoke for God (I Peter 1:21)
2. Affirmed covenant relationship
3. Pointed out violations of the covenant
4. Called for repentance and restoration
5. Warned of God's judgment for continued violations (day of the Lord)
6. Punishment of Israel's enemies
7. Day of restoration and renewal beyond the days of judgment
8. People and responses to the prophetic message (biblical categories)
9. The wise: takes the instruction to heart and acts accordingly; committed to wisdom
10. The fool: brushes off the instruction and continues his disastrous path; resists wisdom
11. The simple: not firmly committed to wisdom or foolishness; easily misled; lacks discipline to get and stay on right path

## REMEMBER

1. The prophetic books that fit in the pre-exile, exile and post-exile periods and their general messages, plus the following leadership axioms

2. God holds leaders responsible for the way they lead the people.
3. Sometimes shepherds have to correct their flocks.
4. To lead well shepherds stay sharp in their relationship to the Lord.
5. Shepherds intentionally acquire wisdom to help their flocks live skillfully.
6. A prophetic calling ("thus says the Lord") is typically for a season and circumstance.
7. You cannot live out your life following God in foundational things without facing opposition.
8. Faith builds on knowing foundational things.
9. Faith matures through the application of foundational things.
10. Faith thrives in the celebration of foundational things.
11. Faith renews through the correction of failing foundational things.

## REVIEW

Review the entire structure of the OT, and your notes from the 5 sessions; be able to draw out the OT structure, name the three sections and the books that go into each.



Bible (66)

OT (39)

NT (27)

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# 6

## The Inter-Testament Period, 400 Not-So-Silent Years

The history found in the Old Testament comes to an end about 400 years before we take up the story of the New Testament. In between the testaments is a period often called the 400 silent years because by Jewish reckoning no prophets spoke in the land of Israel during this period. Well, it may be called silent, but as you'll soon see, it is anything but that. Rather, it's a dynamic period of conquest, political and religious developments, and conflict around compromising or not compromising the foundational values and traditions of Israel. It's a period that has the feel of God setting the cultural/historical table for the coming of His Son.

### A REVIEW OF OUR JOURNEY

- Remember our objectives
- Review of OT Structure and preview of NT structure

## **I. A SUMMARY LOOK AT INTER-TESTAMENT TIMES**

- Introductory comments
- "When the time had \_\_\_\_\_ come" (Gal 4:4)

## **II. THREE KEYS TO THE SILENT YEARS**

**A. R \_\_\_\_\_ ; what did each contribute that will carry forward into the NT?**

**1. Persia (331 B.C.)**

**2. Greece (331 - 164 B.C.)**

**3. Independence (164 - 63 B.C.)**

## 4. Rome (63 BC - 135 AD)

### B. R \_\_\_\_\_

Publications that influenced the NT period

#### 1. Apocrypha

#### 2. Pseudepigrapha

### 3. Dead Sea Scrolls

### 4. Septuagint (LXX)

C. R \_\_\_\_\_

Groups in conflict over the values and traditions of Israel

T \_\_\_\_\_ vs. S \_\_\_\_\_

S \_\_\_\_\_ vs. Ph \_\_\_\_\_

S \_\_\_\_\_ vs. S \_\_\_\_\_

H \_\_\_\_\_ vs. E \_\_\_\_\_

P \_\_\_\_\_ vs. Z \_\_\_\_\_

### III. SILENT YEARS SUMMARY

- Fight for Hebrew IDENTITY in the middle of many religions, dangerous politics, competition for power and position, and ever-changing rulers and conditions.
- Conflict between those who want to COMPROMISE to fit the prevailing culture and those who want to SEPARATE to preserve the traditional culture.
- A time of INTENSITY over values, relationships, beliefs, hope, religion, competition, wealth, rule and future.

### REVIEW AND REMEMBER

1. Entire structure of the OT (draw the chart)
2. Three keys to the Silent Years and the specifics that make up each key

Bible (66)

OT (39)

NT (27)

# 7

## **Meet the Many-faceted King, Servant, Man, God**

Through the books that we know as the Gospels we enter into the life of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Each of the Gospel books – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John – give us a different facet of this life that will change everything . . . but not without resistance as the one also called the Son of Man lives, teaches, touches and then gives His life a ransom for many . . . a ransom accepted by God the Father and affirmed in an ultimate miracle, Christ’s resurrection.

### **REVIEW OF THE INTER-TESTAMENT PERIOD**

- Rulers
- Readings
- Religions



# INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

To describe the Gospels, we can use the analogy of a \_\_\_\_\_ and compare the four Gospel writers to superior \_\_\_\_\_.

## I. MATTHEW

The Gospel of the K \_\_\_\_\_.

A. Audience

B. Author

C. Focal Point

D. Distinctive Feature

**E. Theme(s)**

**F. Leadership application(s)**

**II. MARK**

The Gospel of the S \_\_\_\_\_

**A. Audience**

**B. Author**

**C. Focal Point**

**D. Distinctive Feature**

**E. Theme(s)**

F. Leadership application(s)

**III. LUKE**

The Gospel of the Son of M \_\_\_\_\_

**A. Audience**

**B. Author**

**C. Focal Point**

**D. Distinctive Feature**

**E. Theme(s)**

## **F. Leadership application(s)**

## **IV. JOHN**

The Gospel of the Son of G\_\_\_\_\_

### **A. Audience**

### **B. Author**

### **C. Focal Point**

**D. Distinctive Feature**

**E. Theme(s)**

### F. Leadership application(s)

## REVIEW AND REMEMBER

1. Key elements of the Silent Years
2. Major emphasis and distinctive elements of each Gospel book



# 8

## Acts . . . the Gospel unleashed

With Gospel foundations in place, the disciples have only to put Christ's mandate - "go and make disciples" - into action. But all isn't that simple. With numbers small, their leader in heaven and plenty of confusion and opposition to go around, it's going to take some miracle level experiences to get these early leaders and the church they're called to launch on the move. And as always, God delivers just what they need just when they need it with the result that a church explodes into the Roman Empire and beyond. Let's see how it all happened.

### A REVIEW OF THE GOSPELS

#### I. SOME "BIG PICTURE" REALITIES REGARDING THE BOOK OF ACTS. IT'S:

**A. A “pattern” book**

**B. An adventure**

**C. Expansive in its organization**

**D. A summary of early church life**

**E. Sermons (1/3 of the book)**

**F. Ministries of key people**

**G. Important places**

**H. Representative of a larger picture**

I. Cyclical in approach

Leaders arise and preach - which leads to people listening and responding (church grows) - which leads to opposition - which leads to God rescuing and protecting - which leads to the cycle repeating.

II. UNDERSTANDING ACTS

Fill the chart in as we talk it through in class

	Jerusalem	Judea/Samaria	Beyond (world)
Chapters			
Person			
Audience			
Pattern			
Keys			
Places			
Dates			

### **III. LEADERSHIP THEMES**

**A. Empowerment**

**B. World-wide witness**

**C. Cost of faithful witness**

**D. Integrity**

**E. Unity and witness**

**F. Resurrection**

**G. Response**

**H. Continuation**

**I. God preserves his witness**

REVIEW AND REMEMBER

- 1. Gospel themes and distinctives
- 2. Be able to reproduce the “Understanding Acts” chart
- 3. Pick out at least three of the leadership themes from Acts that you’ll make your own.

PRACTICE

Bible ( )

( )

( )

<div> </div> <div>__ books</div>	<div> </div> <div>years</div>	<div> </div> <div>__ books</div>
----------------------------------	-------------------------------	----------------------------------

\_\_ books

\_\_ book

\_\_ books

\_\_ letters

# 9

## Life-changing Letters from Old Friends of the Church

Session Overview: Instruction comes in many forms. Today we have the ability to instruct virtually if need be. Needless to say, this was a form not available to the early church leaders. If they wanted to minister to someone not in their presence, they had to rely on the most personal approach available next to an actual meeting – the personal letter. As we look at the 22 letters that make up the Instructional Section of the NT we need to remember that they are just that . . . personal . . . letters . . . sent with love, care and concern to Christ's followers, the early church. And they bring that same personal love and concern to you and me.

### REVIEW

# **I. COMPARISON OF OLD TESTAMENT AND NEW TESTAMENT**

## **A. Types of writings**

## **B. Number of years represented**

## **C. Purpose of each type of writings**

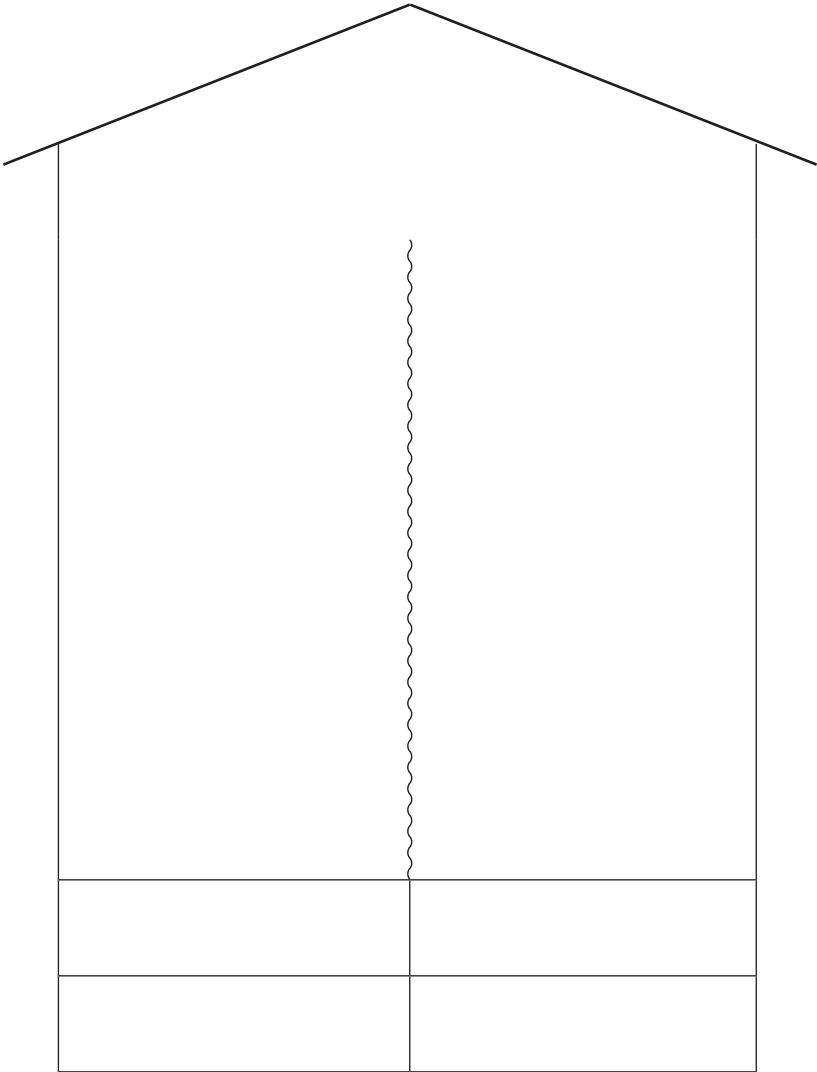


## **II. THE NT LETTERS: THEIR POSITION IN HISTORY**

- A. Written looking back at the cross**
- B. Emphasize Christ's death and resurrection**
- C. Highlight fulfilled promises**
- D. Source of doctrine and theology**
- E. Underscore new life in Christ**
- F. Insight into OT teachings and prophecy**
- G. Faith is center stage**
- H. Suffering seen as aspect of discipleship**
- I. Grave danger from false teaching**

J. The “Instructional House”

Distinctive themes and relationships among the NT letters



### III. DIFFERENCES IN INSTRUCTIONAL LETTERS

#### A. Audience

Paul's letters were written to \_\_\_\_\_ of believers.

General letters are written to \_\_\_\_\_ believers.

#### B. Purpose

Paul's letters are \_\_\_\_\_ books.

General letters are \_\_\_\_\_ books.

#### C. Teaching

Paul's letters are focused on \_\_\_\_\_ .

General letters emphasize \_\_\_\_\_ .

#### **D. Focus**

Paul's letters emphasize \_\_\_\_\_ .

General letters emphasize \_\_\_\_\_ .

#### **E. Emphasis**

Paul's letters emphasize \_\_\_\_\_ .

General letters emphasize \_\_\_\_\_ .

#### **IV. DESCRIPTION OF "LIFE CYCLE"**

#### **V. GENERAL COMMENTS ABOUT THE LETTERS**

##### **A. Authors**

##### **B. Dates**

**C. Organization**

**D. Key to studying**

**VI. THE CORNERSTONE BOOKS**

**A. Romans**

**1.**

**2.**

**3.**

**4.**

**5.**

## **B. Hebrews**

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

## **REVIEW AND REMEMBER**

1. Gospel themes and distinctives
2. "Understanding Acts" chart
3. Be able to reproduce the "Instructional House"
4. Be able to describe the "cornerstone nature" of Romans and Hebrews



# 10

## The Finish Line's in Sight

We've arrived at our final review which will conclude with the biblical author Jude helping us see the importance of the outcomes of our Scripture-wide journey. Remember as you move on from these sessions, that review is a crucial element in making this big-picture tool your own. Some consistent review over the next few weeks, and you'll be building on this tool for a lifetime of spiritual growth and ministry. Conversely, with no review the tool will slowly slip away and along with it, its value to the life and ministry the Lord has for you. The message? Just a little more personal investment (review) and the return on your investment will far exceed what you might have expected. Both your maturity in Christ and your ministry for Him will be the beneficiaries.

### I. REVIEW

#### A. Foundational sections

**B. Historical sections**

**C. Instructional sections**

**D. How the Old Testament sections are related to each other**

**E. How the New Testament sections are related to each other**

**F. Four hundred silent years**

**II. THOUGHTS FROM THE BOOK OF JUDE**

**A. The identity of the author**

**B. Jude's purpose (v. 3)**

### **C. Jude's three keys to contending**

#### **1. Be ROOTED (vs. 20, 21)**

a)

b)

c)

#### **2. Be REACHING (vs. 22, 23)**

a)

b)

c)

#### **3. Be REAL (danger of false teachers)**

### **D. Final thoughts from Jude (v. 24)**