



Preparing New Staff

January 8, 2021

Dear Friends,

Long ago in 1984 when I joined staff with Cru, I attended New Staff Training, which included the first round of classes with Cru's Institute of Biblical Studies (IBS). I took classes again in 1987 and 1991. Then, you may recall I got a Master of Arts in the Old Testament from Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary in 2011. I get to put all of that to good use as I invest in a small group of New Staff as they engage in their first round of IBS classes this month.

The Scriptures are vital to the ministry to which God has called us. My role is to coach them specifically in the Bible Studies Method class. Using the book of Ephesians as a guide, they will learn the skills necessary to open the Scriptures for themselves and to help others engage with it meaningfully. The course objectives are:

1. Gain a transferable and repeatable approach to studying epistles which you can adapt to your own needs and preferences
2. Have a deeper understanding and experience of the Messiah through your study of his Word
3. Better understand the overarching story of the Bible in order to place epistles in their redemptive context
4. Identify the fallen condition and redemptive solution of a given passage
5. Expand your application of Scripture through various ethical and cultural frameworks
6. Write better questions that help people discover the meaning of a passage and respond to God

The six students I will be coaching are:
Brian, Angelique, Kyle, Michaela, Julissa, and Jacob.

As you have likely assumed, we are doing all of this via Zoom. This is an intensive class, so it is all happening this month. Please pray for good preparation each day on my part and good engagement with the students. We will cover a lot of ground between now and the 27th when the work is complete and grades are posted.

What a great opportunity to take this month to invest in this new generation of staff!

Your faithful prayers and giving is humbling and a blessing. Please know how grateful I am.

Blessed to be a blessing,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Liz".



*Wachusett Reservoir on the edge of Clinton, MA
where I will soon be living.*

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