

GRACE BIBLE TRAINING CENTRE (GBTC)
SCHOOL OF MINISTRY
ARUSHA - TANZANIA

INTRODUCTION & COURSE OVERVIEW

You are all welcome to the modular programme of the School of Ministry and we trust that you will be equipped by the Holy Spirit for effective and faithful service to the Lord through this programme.

Each module is planned for 4 months, after which a second module may be introduced in future for those interested in further study.

SUBJECTS:

Subjects to be taught will include the following:

1. Principles of Christian Leadership
2. Basic Christian Doctrine
3. Spiritual Gifts
4. Prayer & Intercession
5. Christian Character
6. Evangelism & Christian Discipleship
7. Bible Survey (Old & New Testament Survey)
8. Bible Study Methods

MOTTO:

To promote and to preserve the integrity of God's Word
2Timothy 1:13; 2:1-2, 15; 3:14-17

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Bring a pen, notebook, Bible, a folder, and a study bag
2. Invest in a good reference or Study Bible
3. Invest in a good Bible concordance, if available
4. Make efforts to memorise Scripture (*Joshua 1:8; Psalms 1:1-3; 119:11*)
5. Make time to study God's Word regularly and take notes of the lessons learnt (*2Timothy 2:15*)
6. Spend time to pray for divine wisdom and understanding of God's Word (*Psalms 119:130*)
7. Make time to pray for the teachers and interpreter for wisdom, understanding and anointing (*Ephesians 6:18-20; Hebrews 13:17*)
8. Make every effort to attend lectures regularly and on time too. If you are unable to do this for whatever reason, please show courtesy by contacting the Registrar, Assistant Registrar, Coordinator or the General Administrator of your Region.
9. If you have any questions during the course of the lectures, please write them down on a paper or raise your hand for attention.
10. Show respect to the teacher and to your colleagues whenever making contributions to the lessons, even when you have to disagree with their views.
11. Don't be critical or irritable by other people's views or opinions. We are here to learn together.

12. When Bible references are given to be read, every student is given an opportunity to read in class as part of the learning process.

OUR OBJECTIVE:

We will seek, through the studies, to provide a correct interpretation and application of the Holy Scriptures as it relates to 4 main areas:

1. Our personal character – if the word does not change you, you have no testimony of the power of God that is in His word
2. Our relationship with God
3. Our relationship with fellow men and women
4. Our service to God and to His Church

In seeking to achieve these objectives, our aim is

1. To complement what the churches and other Bible Schools are providing to their members and students
2. To provide short-term training to leaders and believers who want to go deeper in their walk with God
3. Not to provide an academic programme in the interim but practical training and teaching of the Bible and of the Christian faith
4. To complement the core subjects from time to time with seminars and workshops on contemporary issues affecting the Church and society.

WHY WAS THE HOLY SCRIPTURES WRITTEN?

The Bible (originally from the word *Bibleo* – meaning many books) is the name given to the revelation of God to man contained in sixty-six (66) books or pamphlets, bound together and forming one book and only one, for it has in reality one author (God) and one purpose and plan, and is the development of one scheme of the redemption of man. The compilation of these sixty-six (66) books or pamphlets into one book was completed in 397 AD.

From time to time, you hear one say that they don't believe totally in what's written in the Holy Bible because it was written by men and has been edited. Although it's true that it was written by many different authors, God always was in charge of what was written (*2Peter 1:20-21*). What God wanted written was written, and what He didn't want written, wasn't.

Jesus Christ began His public ministry by reading from Scripture (*Luke 4:14-21*). In fact, He quoted from them quite often (*Luke 24:44-45*). If He didn't believe in what's written in Scripture, would He have used it as the source of much of what He spoke about? Of course not! Since Jesus believed in Scripture, shouldn't we? Of course we should!

2Timothy 3:16-17 says, "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." A key word in this verse is 'All'. All means all, not some.

From time to time, we will ask students to volunteer to read the Scriptures whenever a reference is given during lessons.

The Holy Bible was written for the following reasons:

1. 2Timothy 3:16-17 – For teaching (doctrine), rebuking, correction, & training in righteousness
2. Deuteronomy 5:1, 22 – To provide a revelation of God’s divine will and character, and the basis for fruitful and blessed relationship with Him (*Exodus 31:18*)
3. 2Timothy 3:16-17 – For the equipping of believers for works of service
4. Romans 15:4 – For our learning, encouragement, patience and hope in the promises of God
5. 1Corinthians 10:6-12 – To learn lessons and avoid the consequences of wrong choices and sinful behaviour
6. Luke 1:1-4 – To provide an assurance of the truth of God’s eternal purposes and plans for the human race
7. John 20:30-31 – To provide a basis for our faith in Christ (*John 19:35; 21:24-25*)
8. Revelations 1:19 – Messages and prophetic words as given by the Lord were intended not only for the benefit of the people at the time of writing but also for the future believers.

Since God inspired all the writings of Scriptures, no-one can take it upon themselves to provide interpretations of their own except as led or revealed to them by the Holy Spirit (*2Peter 1:20-21; John 14:25-26; 16:13-15; 1Corinthians 2:1-16; Revelations 22:18-19*).