

# Kurios Course Descriptions

Note: This list is in progress...

Kurios is guided by 9 core values, and while many of our courses overlap we have arranged them by the core value we feel they best fit. Most of these courses/seminars will be presented by invited guests from among leaders and pastors in the family of Canadian Baptists of Western Canada.

## Core Value: Scripture

### How do we live out the Bible?

**Key Objective:** We will develop a love for scripture through reading and study, gaining an understanding of its overall story and themes, while learning to put it in context for today.

### Bible Reading:

Kurios Participants will read through the entire Bible over the course of our 28wk experience. Daily readings (approx. 6 chapters/day) will be assigned, and participants will spend time each day in dialogue with one another responding to the readings with our heart, soul, mind, and strength, as well as discussing how each reading helps us love our neighbour. Students will journal their thoughts and submit it weekly. Text: The Bible in a modern translation (NIV or NLT recommended). 5hrs/wk fall and spring terms.

### Understanding Scripture:

Kurios Participants will learn the structure, history, and composition of the Bible. We will learn to understand the various types of literature and the historical context of the various individual books. We will develop skills in using and evaluating Bible helps, both internal to the text (chapter divisions, added headings, and footnotes), and those external to the text (commentaries, web tools, and dictionaries). Participants will be introduced to various approaches to reading and understanding Scripture and its themes. Our primary goal will be to build a solid foundation from which we might live out the Bible. Text: The Blue Parakeet by Scot McKnight. 3hrs/wk fall term.

## Bible Seminars:

Throughout both terms, Kurios participants will take part in numerous seminars looking at portions of Scripture in a deeper way. Specifics will be dependant on availability of teachers and time allotted. Here are some examples seminars we are considering:

**Genesis 1-11:** An in depth look at the first 11 chapters of Genesis, and various modern perceptions of the creation account and how our understanding of Gen 1-11 shapes our view of ourselves, God's interaction with us, and our way of living in our world. 3hrs total.

**Pentateuch and Joshua:** Introduction to the patriarchs, the exodus, the wilderness, and the promised land. Focus on what these stories reveal about the Person of God and what it means to be His people. 12hrs total.

**God's People in History:** Overview of the history of the Israelites from the period of the judges through to the 2nd temple. Emphasis on understanding the Kingdom of God and how God shows His love to His people. 12hrs total.

**Learning to Lament:** How Scripture gives voice to our pain, and how we meet God in the authentic outpouring of the deepest places of our spirits. 3 hrs total.

**The Relevance of the Writings:** A brief overview of the major and minor prophets as a body of literature, and an understanding of where they fit in historical context. Emphasis on how the OT prophets speak to us today. 6hrs.

**Life of Christ:** A chronological look at the life of Jesus, from prophecy and birth, to Jesus' 3 years of earthly ministry, His death and resurrection, His continuing work, and our great hope for His return. 12hrs

**Gospel of Mark:** We will take the text of the Gospel of Mark as it would have been originally read, without chapter and verse divisions and section titles, and study it together. Kurios participants will "mark up" their own manuscript with divisions, paying close attention to the flow of the story. A creative capping project involving re-telling the story of Jesus to those who are new to it may be included. 12hrs

**Romans:** A chapter by chapter look at Paul's Epistle to the church in Rome. Kurios participants will examine themes of Justification by Faith (1:18-4:25), The Hope of Salvation (5:1-8:39), The Defense of the Gospel (9:1-11:36), and The Transforming Power of the Gospel into Christian Conduct (12:1-15:13). *Outline from Douglas Moo's commentary on Romans.* 12hrs

**Apocalyptic Literature:** An introduction to Revelation, including understanding the type of literature, original context, ways these themes have been

historically interpreted, and the hope we have of God's ultimate restoration. This seminar will help participants learn to think critically and carefully about how we live out the Bible today. 3hrs

## Core Value: Evangelism

### How do we share God's story?

Key Objective: We will learn to proclaim the Gospel freely to everyone, so that everyone would declare Jesus their Saviour and Lord.

### Ways to share The Good News:

Consider various approaches to sharing faith, such as "invitational", "testimonial", "service-based", "social justice", "intentional (targeted) relational", and others. In this seminar we will experience these and reflect on how they fit with our individual personalities and giftedness. As part of this core value, participants will write and share their story with someone who is not currently a follower of Jesus. 12 hours.

*Note more detail is being developed*

## Core Value: Prayer

### How do we hear God speak?

Key Objective: We will explore the fullness of what it means to communicate with God and will grow to embrace prayer as a way of living, rather than a task to be carried out.

### Intro to Prayer

Our approach to learning to pray is through doing. We will pray together as a community in the morning and in the evening, incorporating Psalms and Proverbs into these times of prayer. We will learn and experiment with various types and postures of prayer, and learn skills to quiet our hearts, minds, and bodies as we seek to be fully present to the Lord. Additional seminars will include topics such as how to minister to others through prayer, how to intercede, and how to integrate a habit of prayer into our lives that enhances and cooperates with our God-given personalities.

## Spiritual Disciplines Seminar

A weekly seminar on Spiritual Disciplines will enhance our understanding of our living relationship with God. Participants will choose a discipline to engage with, and take turns presenting that discipline and their practical experiences with it, and guiding group discussion about other's experience of it. 1 hour per week fall and spring terms.

## Core Value: Church

### What is true worship together?

Key Objective: We will wrestle with what it means to "worship together" globally, locally, and individually; building a model of church centred on what we have to give to, and receive from God.

## CETI Church Module

Our focussed teaching on the church will come through our partnership in Costa Rica, where we will follow the CETI curriculum under the leadership of David Nacho. 24 hours.

## Worship Attendance

We will attend church weekly as a community, with a focus on how we prioritize worshipping God first, serving others as an act of worship, and only then consideration of our desires and needs. We will experience a wide variety of churches in the CBWC as we travel. Guided reflection on how we saw God at work and how we might encourage those communities. 3 hours weekly.

## Church in Context

A short seminar putting our 21st century church in context (historical as well as present day), including attention to why we are Baptists. 3 hours.

## Liturgy of the Ordinary Seminar

A weekly seminar unpacking "Liturgy of the Ordinary" by Trish Harrison Warren. 1 hour per week fall term.

# Core Values: Relationships and Identity

Where do I belong? Who am I?

Relationships Key Objective: We will be challenged and equipped to develop deep, meaningful, healthy relationships with others.

Identity Key Objective: We will understand that our identity is centred in being created in the image of God and being "in Christ." We will discover our unique giftedness, passions and weaknesses.

## Emotional Intelligence

Kurios will use numerous tools to help build healthy relationships and identity. Many of these themes will overlap other areas and will be reinforced by the way we learn to communicate, value one another, and see who we are as defined by the Lord through Scripture. In addition, specific seminar topics may include Emotional Intelligence, Listening skills workshop, How to be a good friend, Healthy boundaries and resolving conflict, and Skills for affirming and challenging. Selected personality inventories may also be used. 12 hours.

## Mentored Reading Seminar

A weekly reading seminar is part of these core values. Participants will choose one book in consultation with their home church pastor or a mature Christian mentor. They will read this book and reflect on its content with that person, and each participant will present what they have learned with the other Kurios participants. 1-2 hours per week spring semester.

*Note more detail is being developed*

## Core Value: Authenticity

### How does faith impact life?

Key Objective: We will learn that faith is meant to be lived out in every area of life. We will gain a deeper knowledge of what it means to follow Jesus and will have opportunities to live it out in practical ways.

### Modeling and Mentoring Authenticity

Living authentic Christian lives is not a course to be taught, but rather a value lived out through all we do. Kurios will remain attentive to the call of the Spirit to deeper authenticity with ourselves and with others, reflecting on grace and forgiveness as we live in community and support one another in our lives. This value will be modelled by all of our leaders.

*Note more detail is being developed*

## Core Value: Christian Leadership

### How do we make a difference?

Key Objective: We will gain the tools we need to lead like Jesus through intentional training and leadership opportunities.

### Various Seminars

Seminars will include spiritual gifts, practical assignments, and a habit of reflection on how God is using us in service to His Kingdom.

*Note more detail is being developed*

# Core Value: Autonomy and Responsibility

## What does it mean to grow up?

Key Objective: We will grow toward adulthood as we experience guided opportunities for independence and freedom in conjunction with given responsibility.

### Living in Community Together

This value is mostly lived out, as opposed to “taught” in a course-type setting. We will do this as we live together in community. Tasks of life such as cooking and cleaning will be shared, with teaching and mentoring in practical skills such as safe food handling, how to cook healthy, nutritious, and enjoyable meals, and how to properly clean. This value includes taking the time as a community to invest in the conversations required to share those tasks together.