

CBS Course Descriptions, Writers, and Biographies

Commentaries for CBS courses are written by a variety of qualified professors, scholars, and pastors with expertise in a particular area. Their biographies (in alphabetical order) follow the course listings, which are also in alphabetical order with a (C) after each commentary writer's name.

Home Study Questions and application sections have been prepared by an outstanding team of writers and editors. The question writers are designated by a (Q) after their names, and the application writers are designated by an (A). The application sections refer to **Think About It**, **Personal Summary**, and **Personal Evaluation** sections in the older courses or **THINK ABOUT**, **PERSONALIZE**, and **APPLY** sections in our new format.

COURSE NAME	(PUBLICATION DATE)	(WRITERS)
Course Length	Original revisions	Commentary (C) Applications (A) Home Study Questions (Q)

Community Bible Study's Publishing Department in Colorado Springs, Colorado, does all final editing and formatting. Each course lists the date of the original writing and subsequent edits, although intervening editing may have been done. Courses with a 2004 or later date are in a new format. WISDOM/PASTORAL is also in a spiral bound presentation instead of individual lessons.

The course listings follow

COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

30 weeks	1981	Rev. Phillip C. Hiller (C)
	2005	Eileen Guder-Triplett (A) Chris Wood (Q)

Students will see the Holy Spirit working through the lives of the apostles and the believers in the early church. Originally edited by Dotty Larson, the course includes pertinent applications for today's believers and strong teaching on the foundation of the church—Jesus Christ.

This is a stimulating course. Questions are balanced, good for those new to Bible study, yet challenging for advanced students.

AMOS AND ISAIAH

30 weeks	1982	Dr. Sam Schultz (C)
	2007	Eileen Guder-Triplett (A) Chris Wood (Q)

Revised for 2007-08, this course highlights the attributes of God and speaks to the situations of our day, answering questions about life, human nature, and God. Students will find excitement in the prophecies concerning Messiah and comfort in the prophetic words of encouragement. The commentary masterfully clarifies prophetic time periods, defines unfamiliar biblical terms, and explains symbolic language. Originally edited by Dotty Larson, the first 4 weeks explore the book of Amos, and the remaining 26 weeks concentrate on the study of Isaiah.

Because of God's judgments for disobedience, many students unfamiliar with the Old Testament need encouragement during the early lessons to persevere with the course, so this course is recommended for well-established classes.

1 & 2 CORINTHIANS

30 weeks	1977	Dr. Eddy Swieson (C)
	1991	Anne Ruymann (A) Anne Ruymann (Q)

This practical and very relevant course deals with church problems in a city plagued by immorality. It applies God's answers to similar problems faced by modern-day societies. The questions are thought-provoking.

Recommended for classes that have studied at least one of the Gospels.

COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY

DEUTERONOMY/Psalms

30 weeks (12/18)

1989

Dr. Sam Schultz (C)/
Dr. Ron Allen (C)
Eileen Guder-Triplett (A)
Barbara Pine (Q)

Deuteronomy leads students to respond to a holy God in obedience and love. **Deuteronomy** and **Psalms** were originally edited by Dotty Larson. **Psalms** is a detailed analysis of the book's poetry combined with ways to worship God individually and corporately, but it does not cover all of the **Psalms**.

Recommended for classes that have studied the Old Testament before.

THE DIVIDED KINGDOM AND THE MINOR PROPHETS

30 weeks

2007

Doug McIntosh (C)
Phyllis Cooper (A)
Glenna Wilger (Q)

Conspiracies. Idolatry. Murderous plots. New for 2007-2008, this epic drama begins with the death of King David. After Bathsheba and Solomon narrowly escape assassination, God vindicates His Word by seating Solomon on the throne of Israel. As Solomon's many foreign wives succeed in turning his heart away from the one true God, king following king spiral deeper into spiritual darkness, leading their people into sin and idolatry. In the midst of widespread spiritual collapse, the ministries of the prophets Elijah and Elisha begin, demonstrating the reality and power of God to an unbelieving world. From the splendor of the kingdom during Solomon's reign to the final collapse of the surviving kingdom, these books teach personal and institutional faithfulness to God. Interspersed among the stories of the kings are the messages communicated from God through the minor prophets: warnings of coming judgment, yet hope for a future restoration of a godly kingdom. Despite Israel's determination to rebel against God, the Lord's faithfulness and love for His people never ceases.

The enlightening material in this course covers the books of 1-2 Kings, Joel, Jonah, Amos, Hosea, Micah, Obadiah, Nahum, Zephaniah, and Habakkuk, arranged in the order of their historical events.

Recommended for classes that have studied the Old Testament before.

COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY

GALATIANS/HEBREWS

30 weeks (18/12)

1989
1991/2001

Dr. Erwin Rudolph (C)
Eileen Guder-Triplett (A)
Barbara Pine (Q)

This course needs to be revised and has been suspended. Hopefully it will be available again for the 2008/2009 class season.

Galatians is an outstanding treatment of Christian liberty, illuminating Paul's forceful declaration of justification by faith alone based on the finished work of Jesus Christ and freedom from the bondage of the Law. Originally edited by Dotty Larson, *Galatians* was revised in 1991 by Lee Campbell. The questions are more challenging than most other courses and may seem repetitive because the *Galatians* text is somewhat so. *Hebrews*, revised in 2001, challenges students to gain confidence in the supremacy and sufficiency of Jesus Christ, presenting the theme of Jesus as High Priest. Using Old Testament references, the study leads students to see how the Old Testament worship system foreshadows the New.

Recommended for established classes.

GOSPEL OF JOHN

30 weeks

1975
1997

Dr. Eddy Swieson (C)
Marguerite Hermanson (A)
Marguerite Hermanson (Q)

Originally edited by Dotty Larson, this warm, intimate study of the life and ministry of Jesus, the Word Incarnate, draws applications from His relationships with individuals and their distinct needs. The questions are straightforward, encouraging students to investigate the gospel first-hand, to understand Christ's claims, and to respond to the Truth.

This remains an excellent course for new classes.

COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY

GOSPEL OF LUKE

30 weeks	1978	Dr. Eddy Swieson (C)
	2002	Eileen Guder-Triplett (A)
	2004	Eileen Guder-Triplett (Q)

The clear, concise commentary handles the historic record as well as conveying the truth of the Gospel in such a way that students see Jesus as Savior and Lord as well as Jesus in His humanity. Questions are thought-provoking, but not difficult. The course was originally edited by Dotty Larson.

Recommended for all classes, new or established.

GOSPEL OF MARK/EPHESIANS

30 weeks (18/12)	1991	Dr. James Edwards (C)
		Marguerite Hermanson (A)
		Eileen Guder-Triplett (Q)/
		Dr. Howard Clark (Q)

Mark is an excellent commentary, and the questions help students to make important discoveries in following Jesus on His earthly journeys and to see Him as a man of action.

Ephesians is an in-depth study encouraging understanding of deep spiritual truth and seeking to activate the will in matters of daily life and practice of faith. (CBS has two Ephesians courses by different writers; this one is 12 weeks and was originally edited by Dotty Larson.)

Recommended for all classes, new or established.

COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY

GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

30 weeks	1999	Timothy Crater (C)
	2005	Phyllis Cooper (A) Glenna Wilger (Q)

Matthew writes by the power of the Holy Spirit, primarily to his fellow Jews, proving through Scripture that Jesus' life and ministry fulfilled all Old Testament prophecies concerning Messiah. In studying this Gospel, you can clearly hear Matthew's message: Jesus is indeed the long-awaited Jewish Messiah, the King of kings and Lord of lords, Immanuel, God with us!

New classes should probably begin with another of the Gospels. Because Matthew references the Old Testament so often, familiarity with it can be helpful. Questions are challenging and numerous, but not difficult.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PENTATEUCH

30 weeks	1976	Dr. Eddy Swieson (C)
	1997	Anne Ruymann (A) Anne Ruymann (Q)

A survey of the first five books of the Old Testament, this course emphasizes the correlation and unity of the Old and New Testaments. Some lessons involve skimming through many chapters of Scripture, instead of our usual in-depth, chapter-by-chapter approach, but the course provides a wonderful basis for understanding God's plan of salvation.

We recommend this as the first Old Testament course to study.

COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY

1 & 2 PETER/DANIEL/COLOSSIANS

30 weeks (12/12/6)

1 & 2 PETER

1976

Dr. James Edwards (C)
Marguerite Hermanson (A)
Marguerite Hermanson (Q)

These two letters examine how Christians face suffering, knowing their safety and security are in God. The apostle Peter also teaches his readers how to handle heresy and recognize false teachers in their midst.

DANIEL

1976

Dr. William Counts (C)
Phyllis Cooper (A)
Glenna Wilger (Q)

Giving us a glimpse into future events, Daniel shows us how God is the God of history and is in control of heaven and earth. The familiar stories of Daniel 1-6 are rich with meaning, and the commentary and question writers have made the chapters dealing with prophecy easier to understand by defining and explaining the symbolic language.

COLOSSIANS

1976

Dr. Howard Clark (C)
Dotty Larson (A)
Dotty Larson (Q)

A letter written to combat error in the church, Paul points the believers at Colossae to Jesus as the head of His body, the church, who gives believers fullness in Christ. The questions are thought provoking and challenging.

We recommend PETER/DANIEL/COLOSSIANS for established classes.

RETURN TO JERUSALEM

30 weeks

1985

Dr. Sam Schultz (C)

1999

Eileen Guder-Triplett (A)
Marguerite Hermanson (Q)

An overview of the history of the Israelites that includes their return to Jerusalem after the Babylonian exile, this course covers the books of Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi. The course was originally edited by Dotty Larson.

This course is best suited for established classes, but has been well received by all classes.

COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY

REVELATION

30 weeks	1997	Timothy Crater (C)
	2004	Phyllis Cooper (A)
		Glenna Wilger (Q)

An exciting and challenging study of the end-times prophecy, the book of Revelation reveals the full identity of Christ, His sovereignty, judgment, and triumphant return. The commentary gives an unbiased point of view on sometimes difficult-to-understand passages.

This course is not recommended for new classes.

ROMANS

30 weeks	1985	Dr. James Edwards (C)
	1994	Eileen Guder-Triplett (A)
		Eileen Guder-Triplett (Q)

The study is a stimulating and insightful look at this magnificent treatise of the Christian faith. A great deal of cross-referencing in the questions proves the truths of this book are found in other books of the Bible, but the number of references may be frustrating for some people.

A good course, but not an easy one.

SERVANTS OF GOD

30 weeks	1979	Dr. Eddy Swieson (C)
	1998	Anne Ruymann (A)
		Anne Ruymann (Q)

Originally edited by Dotty Larson, this study encourages today's believers to recognize God's power and availability. The course covers the period from Joshua's leadership through David's rule in Israel by exploring the books of Joshua, Judges, Ruth, and 1 & 2 Samuel. Some lessons involve skimming through large portions of Scripture.

This is a good Old Testament follow-up to the CBS HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PENTATEUCH course.

COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY

SOLOMON'S WISDOM/PASTORAL & SHORT LETTERS

30 weeks (12/18)	2001	Dr. P. Douglas McIntosh (C)/ Timothy Crater (C)
	2004	Phyllis Cooper (A) Glenna Wilger (Q)

Solomon's Wisdom is applied in Proverbs (7 weeks) to successful living at work, in marriage, family and other relationships. Ecclesiastes (3 weeks) views life from a secular perspective, concluding that life without God is meaningless. Song of Songs (2 weeks) is an intimate look at what God intends marriage to be, and describes how deep intimacy is also available in our relationship with Jesus Christ.

Pastoral & Short Letters covers pertinent matters for the times in which we live. The three pastoral letters (1 & 2 Timothy and Titus) delve into such issues as church leadership, sound doctrine, and stopping false teachers. Paul's (chronologically) final letter (2 Timothy) is a poignant picture of the closing days of Paul's life. Three of the four brief, one-chapter epistles (2 & 3 John and Jude) continue the theme of stopping false teachers, while Philemon deals with relationships.

This course is atypical of most CBS studies in that it uses a topical approach to Proverbs, but the course has been very well received. The Home Study Questions are straightforward in dealing with challenging biblical material. This course is presented in two spiral-bound books.

COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY

THE SHORT COURSES

(Six 6-week studies)

Each 6-week study presents God's plan of salvation through Jesus Christ, providing students with the opportunity to understand some of His divine plan and will. THE SHORT COURSES are recommended for new classes in any combination. The questions are stimulating for students with all degrees of biblical knowledge.

GOD'S AMAZING BOOK	1991	The Reverend Bill Campbell (C)
	2004	The Reverend Bill Campbell (A)
		The Reverend Bill Campbell (Q)

Originally edited by Paul Rafala, the course contains a broad overview of the entire Bible and succinctly addresses the issues of divine inspiration, canonicity, the uniqueness of Scripture, and the role of prophecy.

The remaining five courses were originally edited by Dotty Larson.

1 & 2 THESSALONIANS	1976	Dr. William Counts (C)
	1988	Dotty Larson (A)
	2000, 2004	Barbara Pine (Q)

Written by the apostle Paul to the young church in Thessalonica, this epistle focuses on the hope and the habits of faith when tested. The CBS study looks at how Paul's words of encouragement and warning guided new believers and how they apply to believers today.

JAMES	1976	Dr. Eddy Swieson (C)
	1988	Anne Ruymann (A)
	2000, 2004	Eileen Guder-Triplett (Q)

One of the most practical books in the Bible, the lessons for this epistle encourage each student to lead a more consistent, caring Christian life and to explore the practical application of faith in family and society.

COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY

THE SHORT COURSES (CONTINUED)

EPHESIANS	1976	Dr. Eddy Swieson (C)
	1988	Anne Ruymann (A)
	2000, 2004	Eileen Guder-Triplett (Q)

Written to the church at Ephesus by the apostle Paul, the letter beautifully describes how God regards believers. Paul exhorts the Ephesians about what should be evident in their lives in view of what God has accomplished in them. Our study explores God's purpose and power, the power of regeneration in Christ, and the unity and standards of the church. (CBS has two Ephesians courses by different writers—this is the 6-week course; the other one is paired with the Gospel of Mark.)

PHILIPPIANS	1976	Dr. Eddy Swieson (C)
	1988	Anne Ruymann (A)
	2000, 2004	Eileen Guder-Triplett (Q)

One of the most quoted New Testament epistles, Paul wrote to friends at Philippi to show them how joy does not depend on surroundings, but on the Savior. Our study explores working for the Kingdom, Christian unity and charity, and enduring persecution.

1 JOHN	1976	Dr. Eddy Swieson (C)
	1988	Anne Ruymann (A)
	2000, 2004	Eileen Guder-Triplett (Q)

This letter is filled with assurances and provides practical advice to believers. The CBS study looks at the differences between true believers and those who have been deceived, evidences of a new life in Christ, and the great love of God for all of His children.

COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY

ALLEN, RONALD B.

Dr. Allen, a faculty member of Western Seminary, Portland, Oregon since 1970, has taught in the areas of Hebrew language and Scripture. He earned degrees from California State University and Dallas Theological Seminary, where he received the Th.M. (1968) and Th.D. (1973) degrees with a major in Old Testament Languages and Exegesis. He has written several books published by Thomas Nelson and Multnomah Press and has edited extensive sections of the Old Testament for The New King James Bible and notes for The New International Version Study Bible, among many others.

CAMPBELL, BILL

Reverend Bill Campbell is a graduate of both Princeton Seminary (M. Div.) and Fuller Seminary (D. Min.). He was a Teaching Director for a CBS evening class for 9 years, served nearly 10 years in international ministry for seminary students, and is currently the pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Hendersonville, North Carolina.

CLARK, HOWARD E.

Dr. Clark received a Th.M. from Dallas Theological Seminary and a Ph.D. from Western Conservative Baptist Seminary in Portland, Oregon. Since 1992 he has served as Senior Minister at Northwest Bible Church in Dallas, Texas and as Adjunct Teacher of Pastoral Ministries at Dallas Seminary.

COUNTS, WILLIAM

Dr. Counts received an A.B. from Princeton, a M.A. from Southern Methodist University, a Th.M. from Dallas Theological Seminary, and a D.Min. from Fuller Seminary. Since 1980 he has been the pastor of Fellowship Bible Church in Dallas, Texas. He has written three books: *Freedom from Guilt* (coauthored with Bruce Narramore); *The Incredible Christ*; and *Called to Be Free*.

COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY

COOPER, PHYLLIS

Director of Curriculum for Community Bible Study, Phyllis Cooper is also the Teaching Director for the Bethesda, Maryland CBS class. She has a B.A. in English and Drama from Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri; a B.A. in Music from Webster College, St. Louis; and a Master of Church Music from Westminster Choir College, Princeton, New Jersey.

CRATER, TIMOTHY D.

The Reverend Crater is a graduate of Dallas Theological Seminary (Th.M., 1971), where he received the Henry Thiessen Award in New Testament Studies. He was engaged in pastoral ministry in Atlanta, Georgia for 16 years, currently pastors a church in Northern Virginia, and is an author and frequent speaker on the subject of America's heritage of faith. He has served as Special Representative for the Office of Public Affairs of the National Association of Evangelicals in Washington, D.C.

EDWARDS, JAMES R.

Dr. Edwards is Professor of Religion at Whitworth College in Spokane, Washington and former Professor of Religion at Jamestown College in Jamestown, North Dakota (1978-97). He earned his Master of Divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary and his Ph.D. in New Testament from Fuller Theological Seminary. A contributing editor for *Christianity Today*, he has volunteered with Young Life and done translation work for Wycliffe Bible Translators. He has written commentaries on *Romans* (Hendrickson's, 1992) and *The Gospel of Mark* (Eerdmans, 2002). His books include *The Divine Intruder: When God Breaks Into Your Life* (NavPress) and *Is Jesus the Only Savior?* (Eerdmans, 2005), and he co-authored *The Layman's Overview of the Bible* (Thomas Nelson, 1986).

GUDER-TRIPLETT, EILEEN

Eileen Guder-Triplett has written extensively on the Christian life for such publishers as Zondervan Publishing House, Doubleday, and Word Books. She often speaks at women's retreats in the USA and Canada.

COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY

HARRIS, DENNIS

Denny Harris is a former Teaching Director (Duluth, Minnesota Evening class) and has served on the CBS Board of Trustees since 1991, the Board of Eastern University, and the CBS International Board. He graduated from the University of California at Berkeley with a degree in Political Science. After a career that covered more than 30 years of business management—including management consulting, association management, and operating officer with both the Missouri Pacific Railroad and the USX Corporation—Denny returned to full-time ministry as Director of Ministry Operations at McLean Bible Church in the Washington, D.C. area, where he has served since 1999.

HERMANSON, MARGUERITE

Marguerite Hermanson graduated in 1969 from Wheaton College, Illinois with a B.A. in Biblical Studies. She served in youth ministry for many years in Iowa and in Maryland. She then served CBS as a founding Teaching Director in the Damascus and Frederick, Maryland classes. She continues to use her spiritual gifts in team building, leadership training, discipleship and mentoring, biblical teaching in the local church, and as a speaker for women's ministries. Her passion for other believers and for herself is to develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ so intimate that others will be compelled to seek Him.

HILLER, PHILLIP C.

The Reverend Hiller received his B.A. from St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota and earned a M.A. from the University of Wisconsin. He received his theological training at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota and Princeton Seminary, Princeton, New Jersey. He was ordained to the pastoral ministry and served parishes and schools as pastor, teacher, author, and administrator. His favorite activity was that of a Bible teacher. He said of his assignment to write commentaries for the CBS Acts lessons, "I wouldn't be interested unless I thought I could learn something new."

LARSON, DOTTY

Dotty Larson is a graduate of the University of Texas. She has taught Bible studies for many years (currently for the CBS Santa Monica, California class), and is a Trustee Emeritus of the CBS National Board.

COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY

MCINTOSH, P. DOUGLAS

Dr. McIntosh is a graduate of Dallas Theological Seminary (Th.M., 1971) and holds a Doctor of Ministry degree from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School (1982). He is a church planter and has been senior pastor of an Atlanta church since 1971. He is a former instructor in Biblical Languages and Theology at Columbia Biblical Seminary Extension, a tour group leader to Israel and the Bible Lands, and a prolific author.

PINE, BARBARA

Barbara Pine holds a M.A. degree in Theology from Fuller Theological Seminary, has taught international Bible studies for several years, and is a former CBS Teaching Director in Camarillo, California.

RUDOLPH, ERWIN PAUL

Educated at Greenville College, Illinois (B.A. in Theology), Ohio State University (M.A.), and the University of Illinois (Ph.D. in English Literature), Dr. Rudolph served pastorates in Ohio and Illinois before becoming Professor of English Literature at Wheaton College in Illinois. After 31 years at Wheaton, he was named Professor Emeritus in 1981. His publications include a critical-analytical study of the 18th-century devotional writer William Law (Twayne English Author Series, G. K. Hall) and *Good-Bye My Son* (Zondervan), an account of the death of his 21-year-old son from multiple sclerosis. He also edited a series of Devotional Classics for Victor Books, a division of Scripture Press Publications.

RUYMANN, ANNE L.

Anne Ruyman has a B.A. degree from Occidental College in Los Angeles and a M.A. from Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio. She has also studied at San Jose State College and George Washington University, and has served as an elementary school principal in Ohio.

SCHULTZ, SAMUEL J.

Dr. Schultz earned his Doctor of Theology degree from Harvard Divinity School. He was professor of Bible at Wheaton College in Wheaton, Illinois for 30 years and headed its Biblical Studies department for 22 years. He has written many books on the Old Testament, including the widely acclaimed and circulated *The Old Testament Speaks*. He serves as a trustee of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.

COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY

SWIESON, EDDY IE

Dr. Swieson received his L.Th. from Melbourne College of Divinity in Australia and his doctorate at Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, D.C. He also studied at George Washington University and the School of International Service of American University. After serving in pastoral ministry for 34 years in the Washington, D.C. area, he moved to California in 1997 and joined the Volunteer Airport Ambassadors at San Diego International Airport to minister to the traveling public. In his book *When The Angels Laughed*, Dr. Swieson chronicles his premature birth into a poor Chinese Buddhist family in Indonesia, his malaria-ridden youth, God's grace in healing him and sparing him from the atrocities of war, and his encounter with Jesus Christ while reading Paul's letter to the Romans. His motto is, "What I am now I am by the grace of God!"

WILGER, GLENNA

Glenna Wilger has served as Associate National Director for InPrison CBS, a member of the CBS Western Training team, a Teaching Director in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and an Area Director in the Phoenix, Arizona area.

WOOD, CHRIS

Having taught Bible studies for many years, Chris Wood brings to the writing team her gift of teaching, a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures, a discernment of human needs, and a penchant for asking questions. Chris is associated with a diverse question-writing and editing team that meticulously answers and edits each question she prepares.