



Union Branch University

Academy of Religious Education and Spiritual Formation

“31 Weeks”

Course 1: World Religions. This course will give an overview of the eight major world religions of Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, Shinto, Judaism, Christianity and Islam and their origin/creation stories, divine revelation, concept of God, morality, historical figures, ritual practices and sacred writings **(3 weeks)**

Course 2: Black Religion. This course will survey the evidence of the presence of Africa in the Judeo-Christian Faith as well the existence of Ancient Egyptian Religion and African Traditional Religions (ATRs) during the days of biblical history **(2 weeks)**

Course 3: How to Read the Bible. This course will consider the “birthing of the Bible” and its chronology/time table. A distinction between the literal and allegorical, God’s revelation and culture and free will and predestination will be discussed **(2 weeks)**

Course 4: Biblical Geography. This session will map out the present day locations of several biblical places and landmarks **(1 week)**

Course 5: Race and Politics in the Bible. This course will examine the racial dynamics between various racial groups in the Bible. Further exploration will make note of the public policies imposed by world leaders as a means of self-preservation; inclusive of Israel’s Seven Keys to Survival. Ancient and present day Palestinian and Israeli relations will be discussed **(3 weeks)**

Course 6: Unsung Heroines. This course will explore the presence, personalities and major contributions of several women in the Bible to the practice and formation of the Faith. An overview of Womanism and Jesus and gender will also be discussed **(2 weeks)**

Course 7: Old Testament Prophecies. This course will provide an overview of the lives, ministries and Messianic prophecies of both the Major and Minor prophets **(2 weeks)**

Course 8: Who Saw and Said What About Jesus? This course compares the Four Gospel accounts of Jesus' life and ministry. Particular attention will be given to those who were inspired by God to write the accounts and the main themes of each Gospel account **(4 weeks)**

Course 9: The 12 Disciples. This course will look into the lives of each of the 12 disciples and identify their roles during and following the earthly ministry of Jesus **(2 weeks)**

Course 10: Holding One Another Accountable. This session will observe what the Bible says about judging people and our responsibility of holding one another accountable **(1week)**

Course 11: Be What You Believe. This course will offer a deep reading of the Epistle of James and the command to pursue a life of holiness and how a life of faith produces authentic deeds **(2 weeks)**

Course 12: Spiritual Warfare. This session will discuss the reality of spiritual warfare and the believer's ability to resist and defeat satanic attacks. Particular attention will be directed at Ephesians 6 and role that a devotional life plays as a believer's weaponry while in spiritual warfare **(1 week)**

Course 13: Denominationalism. This course will give a synopsis of the Protestant Reformation and breaking away from the Catholic Church of the early 1500s and the establishing of denominations. An overview of Lutheran, Presbyterian, Episcopalian, Methodism, African Methodist Episcopal, Holiness, Church of God in Christ and Baptist will be given with reference to Jehovah Witness **(3 weeks)**

Course 14: The End Times. This course will look into prophesies and symbols in the Books of Daniel (7-12) and Revelation. The end times as considered then and now will be explored as well as biblical descriptions of Heaven **(2 weeks)**

Course 15: Why Do We Read? This session will conclude our series by discussing the revelatory and inspirational purposes for reading the Bible as an individual believer and the church's mandate in order to maintain decency and order **(1 week)**

