

Old Testament Overview (taught by Sarah and Mary)

Materials

For each student:

- * 30 Days to Understanding the Bible by Max Anders
- * Bible (study bible recommended)

Used by the teacher:

- * 30 Days to Understanding the Bible by Max Anders
- * Study Bible

Optional, but very helpful resources:

- * Handbook to the bible
- * Old testament survey book (example Old Testament Survey: the Message, Form, and Background of the Old Testament by LaSor, Hubbard and Bush)
- * Bible atlas
- * Internet

Teaching the Class

I taught the class by basing it on the book 30 Days to Understanding the Bible. This book provides an easy way to study the Old Testament in the form of chunking information together into eras of time. For example: creation era, exodus era, judges era, exile era.) In addition to assigning (usually) one chapter for homework per week I gave students a study outline I had made for each chapter. This outline broke up the homework into 6 days, giving readings for parts of the chapter every day in addition to readings from the bible that corresponded to the topic of study (see example of homework from "Conquest Era".) Also included in the homework were discussion questions that (hopefully) provoked the students to reflect on what they read in the bible and how it personally relates to their lives and relationship with God.

During class times we went through most of the assigned bible readings and discussed what was happening. I provided background information about the people, places and times for each era we studied. The book is wonderful at providing visuals to the reader through tables, charts and maps. Frequently I made visuals myself thorough using power point slides to show locations and places we were studying. I also showed a few videos that related to the era we were studying (videos from Focus on the Family That *The World May Know* series.) These videos gave us a direct look at Israel and where certain

events in the O.T. took place. I also found it helpful to compose family trees of important people in the bible and used those when applicable to the era of study.

Feedback from members:

It seemed like all who took the class really enjoyed it, but had a hard time getting the assigned bible readings done in addition to the chapter readings. Students seemed to really like the layout of the book and appreciated the visuals I provided thorough slide shows and videos.

Recommendations:

To make this a rich study of O.T. do your research! Prepare well ahead of time to be able to offer more to the students to enhance their knowledge. Make sure you have enough time to get through the material and leave time for discussion questions and prayer requests (this was hard for us!) Consider doing *only* one chapter per week and possibly taking two weeks for chapters/eras with more information.