



The Owl

(Open Learning News)



July 2018

Volume 5
Issue 1

Overview



In the last six months students have continued to enrol and complete courses:

- 85 students enrolled on courses
- 223 lessons received
- 23 courses have been completed

Special points of interest:

- ✓ New Courses
- ✓ Students' Stories
- ✓ Tips for Study

New Courses

Want to learn about the oldest religion in the world or the largest religion in the world? Why not try the following courses:

Finding out about World Religions: Christianity is a new starter course that introduces you to Jesus and his followers, what Christians believe and how they worship. Christianity is currently the largest religion in the world.

Finding out about World Religions: Judaism is another new starter course that introduces you to the oldest religion in the world that believes in only one God. Along with learning some of the important dates in the Jewish calendar you can learn how followers of the Jewish faith worship and what they believe.

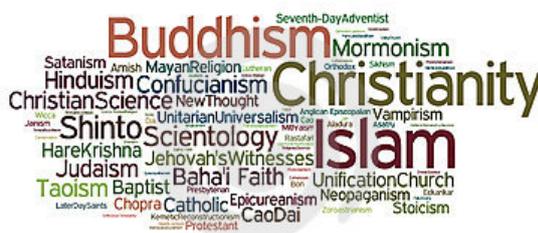
Finding out about World Religions: Islam is the third in this series of new starter courses and introduces you to the second largest religion. You will have the opportunity to learn about Muhammad, what Muslims believe and how followers of this faith worship.

Inside this issue:

My Journey	2
God said No	3
Just for Fun	4
Tips for Study	5
Salvation Army Facts	4
Be Available	6
The Sense of a Goose	7
Student Reflection	8
Book Review	9



WILLIAM
BOOTH
COLLEGE



My Journey — Christopher



Hello, my name is Christopher and I have grown up in The Salvation Army ever since I was a toddler. Inevitably, this led me to sit through a number of Sunday Schools and Sunday meetings and later attend many Bible studies. I was converted and as I grew in my Christian walk, have been given numerous leadership roles in Corps, including running house group Bible studies, Sunday Schools and youth groups.

I realised that God was calling me into Salvation Army officership and I decided that I could benefit from more formal study of a portion of the Bible before I entered the training college. Whilst I may have been familiar with the New Testament, I had found my knowledge of the Old Testament to be weaker, aside from those well-known stories. As this formed the foundation of the Christian faith and the teaching of Jesus, it was something I wanted to study more formally and chose the appropriate course to cover this basis. I enrolled on the open learning course “A1B OLD TESTAMENT STORY: PART B - From Isaiah to the period between the Testaments.”

Going back to studying has been very pleasurable, having not studied in any way for the past five years and that of a religious nature for over eight years. The feedback given from each assignment by the tutor has been very helpful. They have advised on the practical things, such as referencing, and suggested new and interesting lines of thought for the essay to be considered in further reading.

There is good guidance to help develop knowledge, from the recommended reading which forms a basis, to the tutor notes giving a brief overview of each lesson in the course pack.

The unpressured self-deadlines allowed me to balance my study time with my other commitments and my application tasks for officership such as leading meeting and events. Saying this, I have always put aside time and try to give myself a deadline, still aiming to complete one essay a month.

By studying the Old Testament in more depth, I have had numerous opportunities to use what I have learnt. The course has helped me put many of the scripture readings into both a historical and cultural context, that when viewed in this light have given new meaning to the text. Some of this study has formed the basis for my sermon preparation and could indeed be used for Bible study preparation in the future. Some of the essays require a broad study to get the overall view of what is happening but then they allow you to focus on a key passage of scripture, or just a few verses, and these have very easily been transferable.

By working my way through this course, I hope to be more prepared for entering the Training College and I have personally found the course immensely helpful. I would encourage anyone who is looking to deepen their own understanding to consider undertake further study with an Open Learning course.

God gives us dreams a
size too big so that we
can grow into them.

If you leave Gods' umbrella the world will rain on you

When you are willing,
GOD is Able

Jesus gave His life for you. What do you give in return?

When the world pushes you to your knees, you are in a
perfect position to pray.

God Said “No”



I asked God to take away my bad habits.

God said, no.

They are not for me to take away, but for you to give them up.

I asked God to make my disabled child whole.

God said, no.

His spirit is whole, his body is only temporary.

I asked God to grant me patience.

God said, no.

Patience is a by-product of tribulations; it isn't granted, it is learned.

I asked God to give me happiness.

God said, no.

I give you blessings; happiness is up to you.

I asked God to spare me pain.

God said, no.

Suffering draws you apart from worldly cares and brings you closer to me.

I asked God to make my spirit grow.

God said, no.

You must grow on your own, but I will prune you to make you fruitful.

I asked God for all things that I might enjoy life.

God said, no.

I will give you life, so that you may enjoy all things.

I asked God to help me LOVE others, as much as He loves me.

God said....Ahhhh, finally you have the idea.

JUST FOR FUN

Many creatures feature in the Old Testament stories. Can you name the creature that:

1.swallowed Jonah? (Jonah 1:17)
2.tempted Eve? (Genesis 3:1-6)
3.found a fresh olive leaf for Noah? (Genesis 8:10-11)
4.allowed Daniel to enter their den without harm? (Daniel 6)
5.David was caring for before he fought the giant Goliath? (1 Samuel 16:19)
6.God sent as plagues to Egypt (4)? (Exodus 8 and 10)
7.the Israelites worshipped as a Golden Statue? (Exodus 32)
8.is sacrificed by Abraham instead of his son? (Genesis 22:13)
9.is sacrificed by the Israelites on the first Passover night? (Exodus 12:21)
10.brought food to Elijah as he hid in the brook at Cherith? (1 Kings 17:1-8)
11.are killed by a plague in Egypt? (Exodus 9;1-7)
12.God turned Aaron's rod into? (Exodus 7:8-13)

Answers can be found on Page 9

Did you know—Facts about The Salvation Army

The 1966 Beatles song “Strawberry Fields Forever” is John Lennon’s nostalgic reference to the former Salvation Army orphanage known as Strawberry Field situated in Woolton near Liverpool. As a child Lennon played with friends in the trees behind the orphanage.

The Salvation Army is often credited with popularising the doughnut in the United States of America. Salvation Army “donut girl” volunteers cooked doughnuts in battle helmets and served them to front line troops during World War 1.

The Salvation Army flag is the only non-national flag to have been taken to the moon when it was carried by astronaut John Young during the Apollo 16 Mission in 1972.

Seven of William and Catherine Booth’s children (the founder of The Salvation Army) natural children became world known preachers and leaders — two as general of The Salvation Army. All of them published songs which are still sung today.

Tips for Study from a Student — Katie

I literally think it is just my desire to be equipped as best I can to serve God in any situation that might present itself to me, that makes me study. That's basically my mantra for life. I have a longing to serve God and therefore feel I should ready myself as best I can in mind, body and soul. When it comes to actually studying:

- I generally review the course materials as sent to me
- Read the relevant text books, beg and borrow appropriate books from anyone in the Corps and then keep the subject in my mind, looking out for anything that may assist me.
- I try to set aside a weekend to work on my essays (one per weekend) and go for it.
- I have a small house and the sitting room will be a sea of books and notes while I work on my essay.



Tips to help you retain what you learn

Have you ever read a book and then cannot recall what you have just read? How about trying some or all of these practical techniques?

- Take notes on the page — underline sentences you find confusing, interesting or important
- Ask yourself questions about the material — such as “what is the main idea in this section?” or “If you could rewrite the reading, what would your version be like?”
- Skim the text first — skim the text for important topics and keywords beforehand so you know what to expect
- Impress, associate, repeat — picture the situation in your mind or yourself participating in the events described. Link the material to something you already know, e.g. a friend’s name. The more you read the material, the more you remember
- Introduce the information to others—explain what you have just read/learnt to other people
- Read out loud— this helps you to understand and remember what you have just read
- Become familiar with the topic first—gain some background knowledge on the subject before reading a particular text

Please send in the tips that help you in your studies.

We would love to hear from you – and you will be helping other students too!



Be Available



Do you wish you had a particular skill? Maybe you wish you could play the piano, or you could draw or paint? The skill I would love to have is listening – not just hearing, but actively listening and then responding to what others say.

Have you ever been in a situation where you are talking to someone and it is clear that they are not listening? Eyes are looking elsewhere, responses are inappropriate to what you said. Even worse, are they looking at their watch or phone?

Someone you are talking to can even appear to be listening to you intently but their subsequent words or actions tell you that they weren't really paying attention.

One writer said put it like this, "Listen with curiosity. Speak with honesty. Act with integrity. The greatest problem with communication is we don't listen to understand. We listen to reply. When we listen with curiosity, we don't listen with the intent to reply. We listen for what's behind the words."

In 1 Samuel 3 we read the story of God calling Samuel. Samuel was young – possibly only 12 – so he had a limited understanding of, and relationship with, God. Even so, he heard God speak while he was in the Temple, the place of worship.

Samuel was open to God. He may have needed help to understand God's call, but he was ready to listen. When Eli explained that it was God calling Samuel, the young boy listened and responded to what God wanted him to do. He had a willing heart, and trusted God.

We don't need to be in a service or even in a church to hear God's voice – he can speak to us anywhere. If we want to hear God speak to us we need to have open minds and hearts like Samuel. That's sometimes easier said than done! We may think or believe we have open minds, but we are each influenced by our upbringing, our culture, our nature. Sometimes that results in our minds being closed to new ideas and experiences.

Samuel could have been limited by his youth and lack of experience, but God used Eli to help Samuel to understand what was happening. God can do the same today. He can break down the barriers we put up (whether consciously or unconsciously). God may also use other people to help us to recognise that he is speaking to us.

Do you need to listen more actively or carefully? Do you need to listen more carefully to the people around you?

Is God speaking to you? Do you actively listen for his voice, or are you too busy talking to him to listen, or too busy being distracted by other things?

Do you need to listen more carefully for God's voice?

Something New

Do you want to do something different?

Why not enrol on a "bite-size" course? These single lesson courses are available at all levels of study with a choice of many different topics ranging from "Praying the Jesus Prayer", ethics (including both slavery and pornography), to the story of a father and his two sons as told by Jesus in Luke's gospel. Many of these lessons encourage you to relate the content to your own life today.

A new brochure containing these and many other courses is now available.

Please contact Open Learning if you require a copy.

The Sense of a Goose

When you see geese on their annual migrations flying in a "V" formation, you might consider what science has discovered as to why they fly that way. As each bird flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for the bird immediately following. By flying in a "V" formation, the whole flock adds at least 71 percent greater flying range than if each bird flew on its own.



People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going more quickly and easily, because they are travelling on the thrust of one another.

When a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to go it alone and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird in front.

If we have the sense of a goose, we will stay in formation with those people who are heading the same way we are.

When the head goose gets tired, it rotates back in the wing and another goose flies point.

It is sensible to take turns doing demanding jobs, whether with people or with geese flying south.

Geese honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

What message do we give when we honk from behind?

Finally - and this is important - when a goose gets sick or injured and falls out of the formation, two other geese fall out with that goose and follow it down to lend help and protection. They stay with the fallen goose until it is able to fly or until it dies; and only then do they launch out on their own or with another formation to catch up with their own group.

Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you,
he will never let the righteous be shaken

Psalm 55:22

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed,
for I am your God, I will strengthen you and help you; I
will uphold you with my righteous right hand

Isaiah 41:10

Student Reflection — Fiona



I decided to do a distance learning course with William Booth College because I had started to be used by Divisional Headquarters to cover for officers on holiday. I wanted a course to help me better understand what the word of God was saying to people in general and not just what it was saying to me personally.

I started a course called 'Listening to God's Word,' an award level course, and it consisted of two 800-word assignments: One commentary on a given passage and a reflection on the passage. There were six lessons and I managed to complete one lesson a month, although there are no deadlines and you work at a pace that suits you.

My tutor, David, couldn't have been more supportive and encouraging. If, whilst I was working on an assignment, I had any questions at all, all I had to do was ring Debbie. If she could not answer my query herself, she always put me through to the right person who could.

I found the whole experience of studying with Open Learning a very positive one and I am currently undertaking another award level course.

Have Your Say

A summary of some comments from students who have recently completed courses:

- Study guide content clear and a good introduction to the subject
- Clear instructions on answering assignment questions
- Helpful information on how to write references to reading when answering assignment questions
- A fulfilling study experience encouraging further study
- Excellent course.... well prepared.... interesting
- Challenging course..... asks student to think about how to put learning from study into practice
- Learned more about believing in and trusting God
- Encouraging, helpful tutor..... learned a lot from their feedback

Can you hear me?

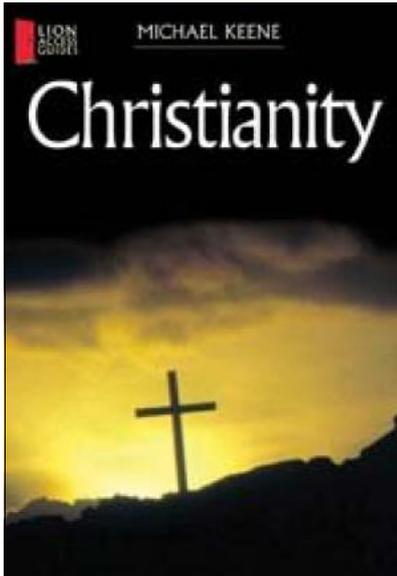


Articles required!

Send your study tips and any questions you have about studying to the Open Learning Office.

Remember—this is your newsletter.

Book Review



Michael Keene: Christianity

Lion Publishing 2008, ISBN 978-0-74595-064-8

Ever wanted to know the origins of Christianity? What do Christians believe? How they worship? What are the issues facing the church worldwide?

This handy pocket sized book answers all these questions and more in a clear and concise way. It is very easy to read, especially for those with little or no knowledge of Christianity or those wanting to find out more.

A rapid factfinder provides more information for key words. The book is illustrated throughout.

Have you found a book useful for your studies? Or read something that made you think?

Why not write a book review and share with others?

Send your article to Open Learning

JUST FOR FUN (The Answers)

1. A big fish
2. A serpent
3. A dove
4. Lions
5. Sheep
6. Frogs, gnats, flies and locusts
7. A bull-calf
8. A ram
9. A lamb or young goat
10. Ravens
11. All the Egyptians' animals
12. A snake

Life is really simple, but we insist on making it complicated.

Confucius

For the Father knows the things you have need of, before you ask him.

Matthew 6:8

The people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits.

Daniel 11:32



Organization

The Salvation Army

Open Learning
School for In-Service Training
and Development
William Booth College
Denmark Hill
London
SE5 8BQ

Phone: 020 7326 2788
E-mail:
openlearning@salvationarmy.org.uk

We are on the web
salvationarmy.org.uk

Course Levels

Starter

These are mainly in workbook form with worksheets for each lesson to complete. They are basic studies are suitable for those students who don't have a comprehensive knowledge of the Bible or who are not used to doing written studies.

Students who are new Christians and who wish to learn about the Christian faith will find these courses helpful.

Subjects available:

- The Story of Jesus by Mark
- You are my God (Psalms)
- First Steps in the Christian Faith
- How to Study the Bible
- Jesus in the Gospels
- Walking with God
- Women in the Bible
- Discovering The Salvation Army
- Learning from Andrew

William Booth College has been at the heart of Salvation Army training since it was opened in 1929, and is now in the forefront of delivering education and learning for The Salvation Army's United Kingdom Territory – and further afield.

The college specialises in training people of all ages to become officers in The Salvation Army and also it offers quality training and education courses through its School for In-Service Training and Development (SISTAD) and its Open Learning Unit.

The School for In-Service Training and Development presents a wide variety of courses and skill enhancing programmes for officers and employees. Each academic year more than 1,000 people take advantage of the learning and development opportunities presented to them through SISTAD. This includes everything from one-day courses on supervision and appraisal, to diploma and degree courses.

William Booth College Vision Statement

We will be a Spirit filled, inspiring and progressive Christian learning community.

William Booth College Mission Statement

Resourcing, empowering and developing people for effective participation in God's mission.

Foundation

A step up from the Starter Level, these courses help the student to develop study skills whilst exploring the chosen subject. Study guides provide basic information and suggest other reading so that the student can work at their own level.

Subjects available:

- Study skills
- This is what the Lord says
- Is this your Life?
- The Birth of the Church
- Women in the Bible
- We Believe
- Belief in Action
- Heart to God and Hand to Man

Award

These courses offer opportunity for in-depth study in a variety of learning styles. Some previous experience of essay writing is required for this level.

Subjects available:

- Old Testament
- A Journey of Faith (Psalms)
- Listening to God's Word (Bible Study)
- Jesus in the Synoptic Gospels
- New Testament
- Salvation Army History
- Salvation Story
- Salvationist Life & Faith
- History of the Early Church



Tree of knowledge