



open learning

Freedom to learn

New Courses

Preaching for Beginners

Leading worship for beginners

Leading a prayer Meeting

Leading a Bible Study

Beginners Guide to Pastoral Care

Preaching for Beginners

Aim: This course introduces the essential elements required for preaching a sermon. It will explore key ways of constructing and presenting a relevant and engaging message for your hearers. The course will introduce you to helpful resources and ideas to aid you in your preaching preparation and presentation experience.

There are a series of set exercises designed to be building blocks toward the writing of the two assignments. It is important to complete these exercises, but note that, unlike the assignments, the exercises are intended for your personal reference and development and are not subject to marking. It will be helpful to have a writing pad and paper to make notes as the exercises suggest.

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this course students should be able to:

- Establish clear starting points for writing and presenting a sermon.
- Consider their cultural context and then identify relevant Biblical themes.
- Prepare a straightforward structure, (introduction, three headings, conclusion and challenge) including bullet point ideas for a sermon.
- Start to explore ways of telling the Gospel story with creativity and imagination. This also involves having a basic understanding of the qualities needed for public speaking and presentation.
- Understand the importance of the preacher's inner relationship with God.

Leading Worship for Beginners

Aim: This course introduces the essential elements required for leading a worship service through from start to finish. The course primarily uses the analogy of air flight to describe how worship can flow from one part to another, smoothly and with meaning for the congregation. The course also highlights the priorities that should be considered through every aspect of preparation and presentation.

There are a series of exercises and also assignments designed to fulfil these aims and to enable the student to reflect more deeply into their own response to the leading of God's people in worship. It is important to complete these and it will be helpful to have a writing pad and paper to make notes as suggested.

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this course students should be able to:

- Understand the basic reasons behind what makes a worship meeting or service flow smoothly.
- Understand the importance of good communication with a worship team and with all who participate publicly in a worship service.
- Prepare and craft a straightforward Running Order for a worship service, and give a rationale for that plan. (or Worship 'flight')
- Start to explore ways of leading worship with creativity and imagination. This also involves having a basic understanding of the qualities needed for public speaking and presentation, some of which are covered here. (The 'Preaching Course' notes (F11.) cover more on this too.)
- Understand and value the importance of the worship leader's inner relationship with God.

Leading a prayer meeting

Aim: This course introduces the essential elements required for leading a prayer meeting through from start to finish. There are a series of exercises and also assignments designed to fulfil these aims and to enable the student to reflect more deeply into their own response to the leading of a prayer meeting. It is important to complete these and it will be helpful to have a writing pad and paper to make notes as suggested.

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this course students should be able to:

- Understand the key principles of a prayer meeting and the use of scripture.
- Choose a theme and understand the context for a prayer meeting.
- Prepare and craft a plan for a prayer meeting.
- Start to explore ways of leading prayer meetings with creativity and imagination.
- Understand and value the importance of the prayer meeting leader's inner relationship with God.

Leading a Bible Study

Aim: This course introduces the essential elements required for leading a Bible Study meeting through from start to finish. There are six assignments designed to fulfil these aims and to enable the student to reflect more deeply into their own response to leading a group of people in studying God's Word.

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this course students should be able to:

- Understand the key principles of a Bible study and the use of scripture.
- Choose a theme and understand the context for a Bible study.
- Prepare and craft a plan for a Bible study.
- Start to explore ways of leading bible studies with creativity and imagination.
- Understand and value the importance of leading through a study while embracing diverse voices and opinions
- Learn to practice a personal discipline of Bible study and personal prayer

An Introduction to Pastoral Care

Aim: This course aims to provide an introduction to the field of pastoral care. Throughout the 6 lessons it provides information, and asks for learner participation, in order to explore some historical, biblical and contemporary concepts which are also related to the learner's personal experience and/or ministry. This course also considers vital aspects that surround the practice of providing pastoral care within a faith-based context, such as the possible dangers involved and how to develop good practice.

Learning Outcome:

By the end of this course participants will have:

- Begun to explore the nature of pastoral care in their own and a wider context
- Considered the core influence of the example of Jesus in pastoral relationships
- Explored what this might look like in contemporary pastoral practice
- Begun to establish what skills would enhance their pastoral care and where they might be obtained
- Reviewed the main factors involved in establishing a framework for safe practice
- Established a plan for dealing with difficult conversations in the pastoral context

There are 6 lessons in each study Guide and each lesson requires responses to facilitate the theory with practice and a 750 word answer to the question.

Each course costs £60.00.

For more information, please contact openlearning@salvationarmy.org.uk