

# Using Bible Classes to teach English

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## 1. Introduction

We can teach the Bible in English most anywhere in Korea. It is one of the easiest ways to use the Bible, as a tool for teaching English. Teaching English in Korea is sought after by almost everyone these days and the need for different methods vary for second language learners.

If you desire to teach English Bible studies, you can make it easy by the TESL method. One can use the step by step process of this teaching method, and then go about it systematically per class level.

I am convinced that this teaching method, is very helpful and very important for students.

1. It offers an extra-curricular activity that promotes English.
2. It stimulates the students to explore new ways to study English.
3. It activates the spirit in students to learn and understand the Bible as a foreign language.
4. It allows the teacher to meet and work with students on a "I want to be here, rather than I have to be here approach."

## 2. "The Gospel of John: A TESL Approach to the Bible in English."

This is a teaching guide and manual. It is what makes the Bible study easy to teach. It is a step by step approach to learning the Bible in English. The Book of John, is helpful for the person seeking to learn the Bible in English.

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Why? Because it is a book that stimulates and appeals to the reader. It becomes an adventure in literature that has a true to life message based on fact, not fiction. Also, students are there to learn and not to be pressured for a grade. It is an opportunity to learn and grow in a second language made interesting for the learner.

### **3. What can the second language learner gain from English Bible Classes?**

It allows the developmental stages of reading in English, correct pronunciation, vocabulary skills, word fill-in thought provoking exercises, and a commentary perspective for a better understanding of the Bible in English. The skills taught in regular conversation classes are similar to teaching the Bible in English. But there are some exceptions.

1. Conversation classes have an aim and purpose to develop basic English skills in social language.
2. Bible classes teach English to grow in a target area of knowledge.
3. Conversation classes focus on present continuous tense, simple past tense, imperatives, adjectives, verbs, nouns, and pronouns.
4. While Bible classes focus on different aspects of the above and more on grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, and reading.

In conversational classes the idea is to formulate student levels from the beginning, intermediate, and advanced stage levels. To separate and take students from point A to Z. While in teaching and conducting Bible classes, they can start with any level of student. Beginners to advanced, is not a problem. The TESL approach makes it easy for all levels to participate together and have mutual learning take place.

### **4. How is the English Bible Study Material Organized?**

In reference to "*The Gospel of John*" a book used for the purpose of this

study, one can see the example in the pages to follow. It is broken down chapter by chapter. Each chapter has a step by step method easy to follow. There is a reading portion for the students to take part in verse by verse. An explanation to the passages read and exercises to key verses of the Bible. Fill-in exercises and parts for repetitive readings.

There are questions and answers to help understand main passages of Scripture. Vocabulary words to learn and understand. Commentary explanations for a clear understanding of the Bible in English. Life questions are inserted in the book for students to ponder thoughts and express these thoughts in English. Portions of background information to give insight to students in what is being conveyed to the learner. In any case each Bible study class using this TESL approach to the Bible in English, has a leader who will conduct and guide the class to promote a teacher-student means of learning.

#### **4.1 Is this material difficult to understand?**

Not, if you follow the steps and take it slow and easy. There is no need to rush through the material in haste. This material works side by side with the *English Bible (New International Version)*. To be sure of what is being said, chapter one of this work is attached in the following pages.

#### **4.2 How can this book and material benefit a group?**

A group of students will be able to become like a club. This kind of stimuli will enhance the students to work together and draw close as students do, when they meet on a weekly basis. Students will tend to feed off of each other with curiosity and wonder. Making their time together more like a circle and encourage one another to grow in skills, and the developmental process, will take hold. When the pressure of grades, quizzes and exams are taken away, the fun of learning takes place. It provides the second language learner to excel in freedom and find the time to relax and enjoyable the class.

Resource: Dr. Dury Chung, of The College of International Studies, European Studies Dept. can give personal testimony. Each semester an English Bible study was held in her office, for over two years.

## 5. Conclusion

This paper gave a different approach to teaching English from the Bible, as a literary tool. It showed that teaching regular conversational classes and Bible classes can have similar points. But Bible classes are more relaxing and fulfilling. The reason for this is the lack of pressure put on by the teaching method. The expectations of grades are non-applicable. It is a free volunteer method of learning a language in a small group form. It contains its own reward through personal study and group interaction. Nevertheless, this TESL approach promotes English skills and development, both in learning and in teaching.



***The Gospel of John***  
**A TESL Approach to the Bible in English**  
A Teaching Guide and Manual  
by  
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This book of John is often the book for new Christians or those who may come as seekers. I encourage those who desire to use the Bible as a T.E.S.L. (*Teaching English as a Second Language*) tool to do so with prayer, preparation and knowledge of the topic. Start with prayer, prepare each section and know what you are talking about. The Gospel message is important to relate from the Bible correctly, as well as simple to understand for second language learners.

The NIV (New International Version) Bible is used for this course.

**The Gospel of John Part 1**

**-Chapter 1-**

Try to convey the chapter by it's subheading for example; The Word Became Flesh in chapter one verses 1-18.

**Class:** Read verses 1-2 (out loud)

**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.**

**Class:** Read verses 3-13

Comment on the verses just read and make it as simple as possible.

**The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

**Explanation:**

John the author, used language with special meaning for both Greek and Jewish readers. In Greek philosophy, "word" (logos) was a key term, often referring to the power of reason undergirding all creation. For Jews, too, "word" had a great significance, for God spoke his word to create the world and to transform his people.

**Exercise:**

Jesus is the Word (repeat)

Jesus is called the Word (repeat)

Jesus was with God in the beginning (repeat)

**Verse 1**

*"In the \_\_\_\_\_ was the \_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_ was with \_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_ was God. He was with God in the beginning."*

**Verse 14**

*"The Word became \_\_\_\_\_ and made his \_\_\_\_\_ among us. We have seen his \_\_\_\_\_, the glory of the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, who came from the \_\_\_\_\_, full of grace and truth."*

**John the Baptist Denies Being the Christ:**

**Class:** Read verse 19-20 (out loud)

Now this was John's testimony when the Jews of Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, *"I am not the Christ."*

**Read verses 21-28**

**Repeat:** *"I am the voice of one calling in the desert, 'make straight the way for the Lord.'"*

**Question:**

Verse 25 Who is *Elijah*? Who is the Prophet?

**Answers:** *Elijah*, was an Israelite prophet well know for his confrontation with the priests of Baal in the Old Testament.  
The prophet, was in reference to the promise in Deuteronomy 18:15 where Moses prophesied, that God would raise up a prophet in the midst of them.  
The Jews drew a distinction between the unnamed prophet and the long awaited Messiah who was in all reality Jesus Christ.

**Leader:** Ask the question; who is the person John is talking about in verses 26-27.

**Answer:** It is Jesus the Christ.

Advise the class that Jesus and John the Baptist were related as they were cousins. Also, John is the forerunner of Jesus.

**Jesus the Lamb of God:**

**Class:** (Read verses 29-34)

**Class:** (Read the following out loud)

*"Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"*

Then John gave this testimony: *"I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him."*

**Leader:**

Ask the following questions-

1. Who is the Lamb of God?
2. What Spirit came from heaven as a dove?

**Answers:**

1. Jesus is the Lamb of God, who took away the sin of the world. Jesus was the sacrificial lamb here in Scripture.
2. The Holy Spirit came down from heaven. A dove is a symbol of the Holy Spirit.

**Jesus' First Disciples:**

**Class:** (Read verses 35-42)

Note: verse 39 opens to the disciples. Other Gospels show the disciples dropping their nets and following Jesus instantly. John describes a more gradual process. When two of John the Baptist's disciples grew curious, Jesus invited them to come and spend a day with him. This process spreads to others.



**Jesus Calls Phillip and Nathanael:**

**Class:** (Read verses 43-51)

**Class:** (Read the following out loud)

Verse 49 Then Nathanael declared, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel."

Verse 51 He then added, *"I tell you the truth, you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."*

**Note:** Son of Man and the Son of God are the same, Jesus.

**Vocabulary:** (Word Power)

**Rabbi** = teacher

**Lamb of God** = Jesus

**John the Baptist** = forerunner to Jesus, cousin to Jesus, who's mother is Elizabeth, related to Mary, Jesus' mother.

**Andrew** = Simon Peter's brother/disciple of Jesus

**Cephas** = translated to Peter/ who is called the *Rock*

**Philip** = disciple of Christ who Jesus said, "follow me"

**Nathanael** = Jesus said, "Here is a true Israelite, in whom there is nothing false."

## ▪ Abstract

## Using Bible Classes to teach English

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This paper expresses the purpose and aim of using the Bible as a teaching method and tool, in relationship to learning another language as a second language learner. This study and work gives a hands on method by using the Bible as a TESL tool. With an example of a Bible study manual and guide to view, the process of teaching the Bible doesn't rely on the Bible scholar or professional Bible teacher. It is an easy step by step approach to teaching and learning the Bible in English.

