

Donna J Smith

NT 615.—Biblical Exegesis Fast Track Fall 2020

Professor Shawn Craigmiles

Proposal for Final Project

Date: November 29, 2020

Overview:

I plan to do a Bible Study for my final project.

Abstract:

I plan to teach a Bible study on Jonah 4:5-11. The mode of delivery will be a teaching format in dialogue with other women. The exegetical methodology will include an outline, a map, in-depth study of the passage giving special attention to the dialogue between God and Jonah, imagery, historical and cultural background, religious context, theological dynamic, literary structure, and missiological application.

Target Audience:

I will teach the study of Jonah at a women's small group at Queen's Christian Alliance Church (QCAC). This is intended for women within our multicultural church (Filipina, Guatemalan, Puerto Rican, Taiwanese, and Mainland Chinese). My goal is to help these women develop skills for an in-depth approach to Bible Study and how to apply it to their lives. The steps I will take to accomplish this includes but is not limited to:

- Surveying the women initially to find out the assumptions they have about Jonah and what they understand to be the purpose of the book.
- Read the entire book together in one sitting to provide the big picture.
- Ask questions to get initial reactions to the story.
- Introduce the outline that we will be following.
- Use a map and other resources to provide the geographical setting, historical and cultural background.
- Determine the context that brings us to the passage we are studying.
- Introduce who, what, when, where, why questioning.
- Break down each sentence, looking for joining words and conjunctions.
- Identify any literary devices, such as key words, imagery, repetition, irony, patterns.
- Draw conclusions: What did we learn about God? What did we learn about Jonah?
- Make personal applications.

Rationale:

When I came to this church, I realized that there is a degree of Biblical illiteracy, e.g. when they asked, "Who is Samson?" I have also been in conversation with women who are reluctant to read through the Old Testament, because they feel overwhelmed and tend to give up, which limits their Bible knowledge to perhaps a few books such as Genesis, Exodus, Psalms and Proverbs, and some prophetic books. Because of the Covid virus, I have been doing one-on-one Bible

studies over the phone with four women. I bring to their attention such things as key words, themes, repetition, and patterns. The purpose of doing a study on Jonah is because as a narrative and a familiar story it can be less threatening and helps to build on the knowledge they already have. A methodical approach to Bible study will introduce exegetical concepts that can encourage them to go further into one passage and it builds confidence. My ministry within the local church is to help make disciples of women who have gifts and passion for ministry and service but feel embarrassed by their lack of knowledge.

Sources/Dialog Partners:

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