

ACE Course: Using the Bible to Introduce Western Arts and Culture and Everyday Expressions

What is ACE Course?

A 10-week interactive **English enhancement** course that introduces three key areas in which the English Bible left a significant impact: **A**rts, **C**ulture and **E**xpressions.

The Bible is arguably the most influential text in all of Western culture. It is the source of inspiration for numerous writers including Shakespeare. It is also a major source of English idioms. English professors from different universities overwhelmingly agree that "an educated person needs to know about the Bible".

Students will learn English through arts, culture and the story behind each idiomatic expression in a fun and interactive way.

The course is developed by SELBL Limited. More information can be found at <http://www.selbl.org>

Culture

Whether it is high culture, such as classical poetry, or popular culture such as movies and everyday news, you can see traces of biblical influence. Understanding the Bible certainly helps you understand our world better.

Bible



Arts

For centuries, the Bible inspired many painters and artists to portray biblical accounts and figures in their art work, such as Leonardo Da Vinci's Last Supper. These beautiful art works serve as appetizers in a lesson which stimulate your interest in the topic that follows.

Expressions

Many idiomatic expressions, such as "eat, drink and be merry" are derived from the Bible. Over 100 words and phrases will be taught in context by referring to the biblical texts from which they are derived. That is, you will be able to understand the linguistic meaning as well as the stories behind these words.

ACE Course Outline

Lesson Name	Theme
Taster Session	Bible and its cultural importance
Lesson 1: In the Beginning	Temptation
Lesson 2: Mark of Cain	Sin
Lesson 3: Tower of Babel	Sin
Lesson 4: Exodus	Faith
Lesson 5: Wisdom of Solomon	Wisdom
Lesson 6: Patience of Job	Trial
Lesson 7: Right Living	Right Living
Lesson 8: Prodigal Son	Love
Lesson 9: Last Supper	Trial
Lesson 10: Damascus Road Experience	Conversion

Presentation materials for the taster session and the 10 lessons are included in the CD.

How it works?

Each lesson centres around a Bible passage rich with idiomatic expressions or literary devices. At the same time, it carries a specific theme for meaningful discussion among students. Each lesson lasts from 1 to 1.5 hours depending on the depth of discussion. Before the course kicks off, a taster session on the cultural importance of the English Bible will be conducted so that students know what to expect from this course. Students generally become more interested in the English language, the Bible and Christianity after attending the course. Their creativity in using the language is also greatly increased.

Both Christians and non-Christians are welcome to attend this course. An ideal class size is a small group of 10-12 people to facilitate group discussions. A larger class size would require more teaching assistants to help in moderating group discussions. An intermediate level of English is expected of students to get the most out of this course. Teachers should adapt course materials to suit the students' level of English proficiency, and to the degree of religious openness in which this course is taught.

ACE English course is a free course, but recommends a refundable deposit to encourage attendance. There is a taster session to introduce the course before actual commencement. Certificates and refundable deposits will be distributed at the last lesson to participants with over 80% attendance.