

Plan for Biblical<sup>1</sup> Greek / FridayNiteBibleStudy: Using Dave Black's *Learn to Read New Testament Greek, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed.*

Do you realize that in times past, many *average* church members could read the New Testament in Greek? Yes, these fortunate individuals had immediate access to the NT in its original language! Yes, they could read it in the same language that the original authors wrote it in. Several times in the Gospels, Jesus asked His audience, “*Have you not read. . . ?*” He was talking about reading the Word of God in its original language (which, by the way, was not in King James English! ☺ Nor NASB.). Learning to read the Greek will open for you a better understanding of the Scriptures. No longer will you be at the mercy of someone who says, “That word in Greek means xyz.” The ability to read biblical Greek will enrich your own understanding of the Bible as well as add depth to your ability to teach it. You, Christian—you know that it is time! If not now, *when?* If not here, *where?* If not you, then *who?* Most of you know that you are never going to take the time and \$ to attend seminary (or you probably would have done it by now).

Here is a readily available way for you to learn it right here in the Tampa area in a structured environment with friends who have the same curiosity that you do. Yes, you are smart enough. I, Jack, your teacher, got through seven semesters of Greek in seminary and I learned some great things that I look forward to passing on to you—not the least of which is *how to learn* to absorb this material. I watched fellow student struggle mightily and came up with a methodology and some tools. Take the plunge! You will never regret it and to the contrary, you will see it as a turning point in your Christian walk! Pastors—I’m calling upon you, even if you had Greek in seminary years ago to join us in this class and dust off that Greek! Add new zest to your sermons and enlightenment to your personal studies! You deserve it for yourself and your congregation will be blessed!

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<sup>1</sup> We are calling our study *Biblical Greek* and not just *New Testament Greek* because there is also a general Greek translation of the TaNaK (Old Testament) called the Septuagint (the LXX) and we will translate a few verses from it as well. For example, what is the significance of God’s statement in Exod 3:6, “*I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob*”? Black’s book is adequate for this task as well. It is concise and follows a logical sequence. I had Black for my first two semesters of seminary Greek and agree wholeheartedly with a fellow student who said, “Dr. Black could teach Greek to a rock!” Couldn’t agree more! He taught it to me! ☺

**John 17:17** ἀγίασον αὐτοὺς ἐν τῇ ἀληθείᾳ· ὁ λόγος ὁ σὸς ἀλήθειά ἐστιν. "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth." (John 17:17 NASB 1995 Update).

In one Bugs Bunny cartoon, a certain character said, "Alright, Rabbit, you've convinced me." If I have likewise convinced you to take advantage of this great opportunity, here is what I want you to do before Class 1:

- 1) Sign up via internet. Should be available on FridayNiteBibleStudy.org before Christmas.
- 2) Collect the below study materials. **Get *Black* book** on Amazon. **3<sup>rd</sup> edition.**
- 3) Do the "Biblical Greek Exercises, Week#1" assignment. Learn the Greek alphabet by heart (***Black***, chapter 1). Quiz at the beginning of the first class period.
- 4) Show up at Jack's Friday night, January 15, 2016 with \$15 (non-refundable. \$30 per family). See you Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>, for our first class session. 6:00pm for food! Class begins promptly at 6:45pm. Goes till 8:00pm with one 5 minute break. Work hard and YOU CAN DO THIS! 17315 Oak Ledge Dr., Lutz 33549

Materials 1) ***Learn to Read New Testament Greek, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, 2009*** by David Alan Black (Please do NOT buy

Needed: earlier editions as the page numbers will *not* match up and you will get confused in class.

2) Printout of the "Biblical Greek Exercises, Week# \_\_" assignment.

(Print it out--**provided on the website**)(Yes! You're smart enough to do Greek! You can do this!)

3) 3 x 5 index cards (at least 100).

4) Highlighter pens (at least 7 different colors—more is better) (Suggest a set of the 10 pen Sharpie

Accent Highlighters. They stand out nicely!)

- 5) One ruler or straight edge
- 6) 50 sheets of ruled notebook paper
- 7) One or two black Flair pens.
- 8) One three-ringed binder.
- 9) One set of dividers/tabs for the three-ringed binder.
- 10) At least one pencil with a sturdy eraser (think of Greek like math—DON'T use a pen.)
- 11). One red pen.

***Learn to Read New Testament Greek*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed., by David Alan Black**

<b>Week #</b>	<b>Date 2016</b>	<b>Chapter #</b>	<b>Subject Matter</b>	<b># of Pages</b>
1	15 Jan	1	The Letters and Sounds of Greek	9
2	22 Jan	2	The Greek Verb System (an overview)	7
3	29 Jan	3	Verbs: Present and Future Tense	9
4	5 Feb	4	Nouns	9
5	12 Feb	5	Nouns	7
6	19 Feb	6	Adjectives <b><u>1ST TEST</u></b>	7
<b>You Get a Break. Highly Encourage Informal Meetings!</b>				
7	11 Mar	7	Verbs: Aorist and Imperfect	7
8	18 Mar	8	Additional Prepositions	9
9	<b>1 Apr</b>	9	Personal Pronouns	8
10	8 Apr	10	Verbs: Perfect and Pluperfect	7
11	15 Apr	11	Demonstrative Pronouns	6

12	22 Apr	12	Verbs: Present and Middle Passive	6
13	29 Apr	13	Verbs: Perfect Middle and Passive, Future Middle	5
14	6 May	14	Verbs: Imperfect Middle and Passive, Aorist Middle, and Pluperfect Middle and Passive	5
15	13 May	15	Verbs: Aorist and Future Passive	5
16	20 May	16	Verbs: Review of the Indicative	9
17	27 May	17	Nouns: Third Declension	6
18	3 Jun	18	Adjectives, Pronouns, and Numerals Of the Third Declension <b><u>2ND TEST</u></b>	9
<b>Break: Relax, Breathe! ☺ (WHEN THIS BREAK OCCURS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.)</b>				
19	1 Jul	19	Verbs: Contract and Liquid	9
20	8 Jul	20	Participles I: pp 142-149	7
21	15 Jul	20	Participles II: 149-159	11
22	22 Jul	21	Infinitives	9
23	29 Jul	22	Additional Pronouns	7
24	Aug 5	23	Verbs: The Subjunctive Mood	9
25	Aug 12	24	Verbs: The Imperative and Optative	6
26	Aug 19	25	Verbs: The <b>-μι</b> Conjugation <b><u>3<sup>RD</sup> TEST</u></b>	6
<b>Now go shake the <i>WORLD</i>, baby! ☺</b>				

RULES of ENGAGEMENT: (My class, my ROE ☺!).

1.) Each week, you must STUDY (not just read) each chapter of **Black** before class. This means *meaningful* highlighting and interaction with the book. Careful! **Black** is very concise in what he writes which means there is more there than meets the eye. Short chapters, much content. What he writes requires thought!

2.) Each week, you must have the corresponding “Biblical Greek Exercises, Week#\_\_” assignment sheet printed out and completed before class begins. (Does not have to be perfect, just a good faith effort. The quizzes will serve as your measuring stick as to how you are doing). Working with a study buddy where you do ½ the work and go through w/the buddy what you *didn't* do *is* acceptable. Copying someone else’s work is *not* acceptable.

3.) Each week, before every class session, a sheet will be circulated and each student will certify by signature that he/she has completed the above two tasks. One failure of either will be allowed for each trimester. More than one incompleteness? You will be greatly jeopardizing your ability to keep up with the class and it will be a discouragement to you as well as a distraction to the class. So please keep up, for your own benefit.

4.) **BEFORE CLASS BEGINS ON 15 JAN., YOU MUST HAVE COMPLETED THE FOLLOWING four items:**

a) Read all of this document. (Keep going! You’re not there yet). Everyone. Your husband, sister, or best friend cannot read it for you, Please read it for yourself. Every page.

b) THE STUDY of **BLACK** CHAPTER 1 (“The Letters and Sounds of Greek”). So buy it. Soon. NOW.

c) A printout of “Biblical Greek Exercises, Week#1, chapter 1.” Complete this.

d) If not, you might as well not come. You are too far behind to catch up. (Don’t believe me?

I was in class at Hebrew University going through an introductory TaNaK Hebrew course.

Met a class mate in my dorm a couple of days before class began. I urged him to memorize the

Hebrew alphabet before the first class session. His response was, “It think he’ll teach that to us

the first day.” Well. . . *that guy* never caught up the five weeks that we were in class. And he was

Jewish! Really! He was behind, struggling, and a “boat anchor” to the rest of the class the entire time.) So

. . . NAIL that alphabet BEFORE 15 Jan. **YOU CAN DO IT!** Remember—it is not that different than the English (Latin) alphabet so don't psyche yourself out! Want a head start? Look on the website [FridayNiteBibleStudy.org](http://FridayNiteBibleStudy.org) >Greek Words> Mark *or* Acts. If you have attended even a few FridayNite BibleStudy sessions (since April) you have had at least some exposure to the Greek alphabet. So give it a try! **YOU CAN DO IT!**

5.) If you have had prior Greek experience, I ask that you *not* try to teach the course when we are having our sessions. What I mean is to please resist the urge to say, *"I heard Dr. Enns says this. . . Dr. Shmo says to look at it this way. . ."* This may have proved helpful to you but in many cases it may cause a cerebral hemorrhage in another student and kill needed brain cells! Your intentions may be good but you could end up overwhelming someone who is less experienced. It's like the baseball player who is in a hitting slump and four different guys give him four different "expert tips" to "help" him start hitting (or. . . think Tim Tebow coming into the NFL and all of those "coaches" trying to "help" him with his throwing motion. By the way, Tim is not playing football at the moment!). Please trust me to teach the class. If you want to "advise" a study buddy privately or speak to a fellow student during a break or when our class is not in session, that is your business. I trust that those students experienced in Greek will find this to be a highly beneficial review if you can stay with the methodology I will give you. God speed to all!

6.) Questions during class are highly encouraged and can be a great learning opportunity for the class and a good

feedback opportunity for me. You may raise your hand at any time. Please do not feel like you are interrupting. If the moment is *not* right I will say something like, “I see your hand, Bob (assuming your name is Bob 😊)—be with you in a second.” Good questions are timely and on track. Everyone benefits from these. Questions and comments that are framed to show how much we know are *not* helpful and could even cause another student to wonder if she or he is behind. Please use your best judgment. The whole class thanks you in advance!

7.) Cell phones must be turned off prior to the beginning of class. Exceptions may be made for doctors / nurses / pastors on call. I’m sure we can all do without our phones for 1 hr. and 15 min. Some of you may like to work with your documents on a phone, lap top, or pad device. You will not need these devices in class nor do we want the distraction as we will be working with paper and pencil and the **Black** book. Believe me, you do not want to overload yourselves with trying to accomplish with an electronic device what we will be doing with paper assignment sheets and a paper text book. Old fashioned? Yes. Effective? Affirmative! True, you may see me using an I-Pad and my lap top to conduct some of the class. This is for the benefit of clarity so that what I am writing or referring to may be seen by all on the BIG screen TVs—especially for those who are sitting in the front room. So, help a brother and please turn off your cell phones and devices or leave them at home. Thank you in advance for your spirit of Christian humility and attitude of mature cooperation. It is my prayer that we will have an orderly (but fun and rewarding) class. Everyone plays a part in this. Thank you in advance.

8.) Teaching method is important. You will see a pattern emerging quickly of how we are approaching the material and if you stay with it I trust you *will* learn. Order and repetition are essential parts of learning any new material or complex task. I will provide this order and repetition. My goal is to do this while appealing to the three major learning styles of oral, visual, and tactile. When I was in seminary, I regularly went to the third floor of the library to do my language study. A fellow student who worked as a custodian at the seminary was regularly on duty when I was up there and liked to peek over my shoulder and see “what was cooking.” More than once he encouraged me to share my “stew!” So that is what I will be doing in this class. My beef with the seminary language classes was that up front they failed to teach us students *how* to learn as they continued to pour complex material down our throats! Oh, the seminary had a class called *The Education of the Church* that had a big learning component to it (how people *learn*). Too bad that neither of the language depts. (OT and NT) ever taught that material to us. Many of the students struggled *mightily* trying to learn Greek and Hebrew because it took them weeks to figure out *how* to learn it. Because no one in aviation (my professions have been military and airline pilot) ever mistook me for a genius, I had to learn *how* to learn just to keep up with my competition (who were often aerospace engineers straight out of the Air Force Academy). So when it came to the language classes at seminary, I just took that understanding of *how* to learn something that I had picked up from aviation (which often requires a large amount of data and information to be digested

in a short period of time) and applied it as best I could. So, you may find that *what* we do to learn this Greek language material, *how* we learn it, may help you with anything in life that you wish to learn. In the end, I hope it is a highly valuable byproduct of learning the Bible in Greek itself! Now all that that said, one can only be *given* a method and frame work to learn. You must do the rest of the rest of the work yourself (with the help of your study buddy and Dr. Black—who has a *great* presentation method in his book). You must lay the foundation in your own mind and lift the frame. I will be with you every step of the way, praying for your endurance, encouraging your diligence, and cheering your accomplishments of “putting up the roof”!

9.) Counting the cost. Jesus said this was essential to be His disciple (Luke 14:28). Our question in beginning our adventure of learning biblical Greek is. . . what will we have to give up along the way to reach our goal (of being able to read biblical Greek)? You will need 3-6 hours a week to be able to progress. Will you have to give up ESPN? Nick at Night? Your favorite video game? People magazine? What? I cannot think of many things more important for the Christian than learning to read the Bible in the original language. Like most anything in life that is rewarding, something of lesser value must be forfeited in exchange. What will it be for you? Maybe you will just need some new time management skills or perhaps a quieter place to study--without distractions. I have found that I must go to a library to study to escape sports on TV or the many little tasks that always seem to be staring me in the face when I am in my house. What I have found out, as much as I do enjoy sports, is that

the game will end up with the same score whether I watch it or not! We all have our battles to fight.

10.) As far as how you schedule your studying, I would strongly suggest that you do your best to do your **Black** studying in one sitting with highlighters in hand. Initially plan on budgeting at least one hour and see how it goes. Except for the first two chapters, there is a vocabulary list at the end of each chapter. You must learn these words to be able to read a minimum amount of the Bible in Greek. These will also be on the weekly quiz. Expect it! But. . . GOOD NEWS! If you have been paying even a little bit of attention in FridayNiteBibleStudy, you will find that many of those words are familiar. These are best learned by writing the Greek words on one side of the 3 x 5 index cards (on your shopping list) with a black flair pen and putting the English equivalent on the other side. The verb cards will demand a little more attention but. . . once you know how I think you will find that what once seemed complex does indeed have a pattern. Jesus said that a kingdom citizen should “*not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.*” (Matt 6:34b). This has great application when it comes to language study. Why worry about what the “subjunctive mood” is when it is at the tail end of the course? So the verbs and the verb cards will take care of themselves in due time. Let’s just be faithful each week to do what is assigned and we will be amazed at the end of the course what has been accomplished. Good enough? The translation work will mostly be found on the weekly assignment sheet that I give you. I ask that you do them in pencil because you will most certainly find that you will invariably change your mind (often). A good idea is to correct your work with a red (flair) pen and add comments made in

class concerning that particular Bible verse. That way you will have a record of what was said and will not end up asking yourself, “Now is that something I observed or is it something Jack said?” Likewise, when something is pointed out in class in **Black**, you may want to write a note to yourself right in the text book in **Black** with the red pen. (Gets a little confusing, huh? The **Black** book. . . the red pen. . . the white paper ☺). This way you have a ready record of what was taught in class—helpful for what you are studying in your quiet place and ask yourself, “Now *what* did he say?” Remember—the red pen is your friend! Your paper notebook—quaint thing that it is—will help you keep track of it all. If you are so inclined, by all means scan your hand written notes and assignments into an electronic document if that helps you. But I am not trying to create work for you since you already will have enough to do (believe me). So only put your assignments into an electronic format if you find you learn the material better that way. But I just don’t want you to take away brain bytes in class messing with your documents, etc. because I guarantee you that we will be moving fast enough and don’t want you to miss vital information while you are making last week’s assignment into a pretty document. So, again, you won’t need your lap top in class and we don’t want cell phones distracting your learning or that of others. To be sure, we will go over all of this learning method stuff over and again in class. Remember—repetition is the mother of all learning!

11.) If this learning method that I am going to be presenting is an absolute impediment to your learning, then at the end of the first six weeks, if you can explain an equivalent system that works or will work for you, I won’t

stand in your way—you may switch to that. Until then, I will be insisting that you follow this plan because I want you to succeed! Alright. Go get 'em! 😊