

Dear Dr. Kaminski and the Casket Empty community,

After hearing Dr. K share the Casket Empty vision and resources at a pastor's conference a year ago I secured our church board's approval to make an all-out push to raise the biblical literacy of our congregation by understanding the single salvation story through all the segments of the Bible. We decided to start in September, conclude the CE Old Testament portion by March, then teach the New Testament from Easter through July. Taking 4 – 6 weeks per "letter" of Casket Empty. We decided to use three teaching formats:

1. Live Sunday morning Pastor's Bible Class – one hour, with one page outline I create that is emailed to attenders of the class by Wednesday prior (for pre-class study).
2. Online learning community study – I tape a 30-40 minute lesson summary on the Friday before Sunday's class. (we do not record the class) and post it weekly on my new Vimeo.com account. The entire congregation (and those who want to learn but don't live in San Diego) are encouraged to follow the study by watching the videos. Home-bound members have expressed delight that they can follow along with the congregational bible study – "and have my pastor teach me the Bible."
3. Read Casket Empty book and timeline – realizing not everyone would come to class or click online – we got the book/timeline into a lot of member's hands to read personally at their own speed.

Twenty percent of our worship attenders also attend the Pastor's Bible Class, another 15% watch regularly online, 50% of the congregation have bought the book/OT outline and are reading through it.

What I've learned:

- Building up for a big "launch" is important. We showed Dr. K's 4 minute overview of CE in our worship services, had materials, banners up for week prior to the "on ramp" Sunday when I preached a sermon on the single salvation story through the Bible –especially focusing on the value of the Old Testament.
- Videotaping a lesson summary prior to actually teaching the class on Sunday has helped me focus, sharpen my lesson outline and create better application points.
- In addition to teaching CE as a "Bible Survey" overview, I strive to present one personal application of that Sunday's scripture passage every week. Studying the "Kings" portion during these USA presidential primaries has been entertaining! (and poignant).
- By creating a one page outline (for the class members to receive via email by Wednesday prior) my class members are much more engaged, offering insights and asking questions that were stimulated by doing personal study.
- The vimeo.com lesson summaries are a great way for people who are looking for a church by looking at our church website, then clicking onto the vimeo.com lesson – they see and hear me teach the Bible. We are getting people every month begin to attend our church and they mention the videos.

I've attached sample class outlines for the four Sundays I taught Abraham, and you can go to www.vimeo.com/pastorjohn to see the videos on Creation through Exile.

Thank you Dr. K for equipping us to teach God's Word!

Sincerely in Christ,
John Moser, Pastor
Mount Soledad Presbyterian Church, San Diego, CA