

the cohort

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Question: *What is The Cohort?*

Answer: A cohort is “a group of people with shared characteristics.” In the context of Open Door, it is a group of students engaged in a more intensive discipleship track than one would find in another group, and which is focused on learning the Bible and the core doctrines of the Christian faith.

Question: *What is the difference between The Cohort and a DIG?*

Answer: A DIG consists of three or four members. Generally one of the members is a leader and the others are learning with and from them. DIGs are designed to last about six months; at which time the learners are encouraged to start their own DIG. By contrast, The Cohort is a learning environment intended to equip disciples to pass on an understanding of the Bible and of Christian Doctrine in a Bible Study or teaching format. It is longer in duration than a DIG, requires more reading and course work, is open to more members, and is organized by units.

Question: *I am interested in The Cohort, but I have no advanced Bible training. Is it something that a church attender can do?*

Answer: The Cohort is designed for both the church attender and someone who has had some advanced Bible training. The standard track is designed as more of an introduction, and an advanced track is available for those who would like a more intensive experience.

Question: *As a regular attender and follower of Jesus, will I be overwhelmed with the Course content?*

Answer: The course is designed to stretch not overwhelm the student. As such the depth and intensity of the content of the course will be commensurate with the level of the students.

Question: *What is the difference between the standard and intensive tracks?*

Answer: The standard track is designed for those who want to take the program, but not do extensive research and writing. The intensive level is for those who want to go deeper into research and also into writing theological papers. Additionally, those taking the intensive level will be required to do more reading.

Question: *Will I need to write papers?*

Answer: No, not unless you're taking it at the intensive level.

Question: *Will my work be graded?*

Answer: No, not unless you're taking it at the intensive level.

Question: *What can I expect to get from The Cohort?*

Answer: If you take all seven units, you will have a comprehensive understanding of Bible doctrine, the Old Testament, New Testament, Apologetics and Christian Worldview at a college undergraduate level.

Question: *Overall, what does the program look like?*

Answer: The Cohort consists of seven units, each unit consisting of sixteen weeks. The entire program is designed to be a three-and-a-half-year program.

Question: *What are the various Cohort units?*

Answer: Unit 1 – Introduction, Doctrine of the Bible, How to Interpret the Bible
Unit 2 – Doctrine of God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit
Unit 3 – Doctrine of Man, Sin, and Salvation
Unit 4 – Doctrine of Angels, Church, and End Times
Unit 5 – Old Testament Survey
Unit 6 – New Testament Survey
Unit 7 – Apologetics and Christian Worldview

Question: *Do I need to commit to taking all of the units of The Cohort?*

Answer: Although it is desirable to take all of the units of The Cohort in order, none of the units build on another. The only exception to this is the first unit which is the basis for all succeeding units. A student may skip any of the units two through seven and take them at a different point in time. Having said that, however, it is expected that each student will complete a cohort unit once it is started.

Question: *What is the time commitment?*

Answer: Each student would commit to completing one unit which consists of 16 weeks.

Question: *What does the unit schedule look like?*

Answer: There will be eight 2-hour sessions meeting in person every other week for sixteen weeks. On weeks in which there is no in person meeting, there will be a zoom conference call to catch up and have further discussions.

Question: *What would be the average time commitment?*

Answer: You can expect to spend approximately four to five hours per week on the meetings, assignments, readings, and videos. Those taking the intensive track can expect to spend three to four additional hours per week.

Question: *What happens if I miss a session?*

Answer: In between the biweekly in-person meetings, there will be a Zoom conference call that will allow students to catch up with any materials, and to further the discussion on any other topic they may wish to talk about.

Question: *What is the cost?*

Answer: The program cost would be the cost of the books which is approximately \$100 per unit. The cost is paid to the church, and the books are supplied during the first meeting of each unit.

Question: *Will there be any study materials provided?*

Answer: There will be a worksheet for each two-hour, in-person meeting that will consist of discussion questions, assignments, and thought-provoking questions. Each student will fill out the discussion questions and will discuss them at the next in-person meeting.

Question: *Will there be any refreshments provided?*

Answer: Each student will take turns, providing refreshments for the in-person meetings. Refreshments provided will be at the discretion of the person providing them.

