



## Introductory Session

### aims

The purpose of this session is to:

- Introduce the unit and its content
- Explain the assessment requirements
- Help you prepare for and plan your studies for this unit

### Welcome

Welcome to this unit which introduces you to some of the main episodes in Baptist history, particularly Baptist history in England, and links those developments with Baptist principles and practice. This unit will frequently make connections between the past and the present, giving emphasis to the story of Baptists in England from the seventeenth century onwards and the issues which face Baptists in England today. We hope that you will enjoy this unit and be inspired by its content.

This unit aims to develop an understanding of Baptist history and principles through a survey of the major themes and episodes in Baptist history from the seventeenth century to the present day and through reflection on their implications today.

Connections are made between the past and the present. Particular emphasis is given to the Baptist story in England and to issues that face contemporary Baptists in England.

By the end of the unit competent and diligent students will be able to:

- Discuss the development of Baptist churches since the seventeenth century and the principles that were involved in this development;
- Demonstrate an understanding of how social, political and cultural factors have influenced the beliefs and practices of Baptists;
- Analyse and evaluate the historical data;
- Use an historical perspective to illuminate and evaluate new issues and situations in relation to Baptist identity;
- Relate something of the way in which Baptists have attempted to provide a coherent framework of faith and life within a changing environment, for example through confessions and covenants;
- Apply the material studied to a range of contemporary issues in Baptist life.

### aims

## Unit Content

The developments which receive most attention in this unit are the early shaping of English Baptist life in the seventeenth century, including the influence of the currents of the Reformation; the different stories of General and Particular Baptists; mission and growth; the effects of the eighteenth-century Evangelical Revival on General and Particular Baptists; overseas mission; the formation of the Baptist Union in the nineteenth century; organised home mission and church planting; nineteenth-century theological tensions and the role of theological education; the shaping and re-shaping of the Baptist Union in the twentieth century; the challenges of ecumenism and Pentecostal and charismatic streams in Britain. The implications of these developments for today will be examined. Principles which shape Baptist identity will be drawn from the studies of Baptist life.

## Study Time

Total Study time 100 hours

Session Study Time 17 x 3 hours (approx)

Assignment time 2 x 25 hours

Further reading 50 hours (approx)



## Sessions

This unit is divided into the following sessions, based on the chapters in Roger Hayden, *English Baptist History and Heritage* (Didcot: Baptist Union, 2005):

Introduction	
Session One	<i>Setting the scene</i>
	<b>General Background</b>
Session Two	<i>The Renaissance and Reformation in Europe</i>
	<b>The General Baptists</b>
Session Three	<i>Early English Baptist Separatists</i>
Session Four	<i>English General Baptists</i>
Session Five	<i>General Baptists in the Eighteenth Century</i>
Session Six	<i>The New Connexion of General Baptists</i>
	<b>The Particular Baptists</b>
Session Seven	<i>Particular Baptist Origins</i>
Session Eight	<i>Baptists under Pressure</i>
Session Nine	<i>The Challenge to Mind and Heart</i>

Session Ten	<i>The Evangelical Revival and Particular Baptists</i>
Session Eleven	<i>Particular Baptists in a Changing World</i>
Session Twelve	<i>The Baptist Union and C.H. Spurgeon</i>
	<b>Baptists Together</b>
Session Thirteen	<i>A National Baptist Community</i>
Session Fourteen	<i>A Vision of unity in Mission</i>
Session Fifteen	<i>Consolidation and Self-awareness</i>
Session Sixteen	<i>Understanding Faith, Enabling Ministry</i>
Session Seventeen	<i>Baptist Identity</i>
Conclusion	<b>Learning Review</b>

Together these sessions provide a comprehensive history of the Baptist movement.

### Reading List

Obviously you are not expected to read everything in the provided bibliography for this unit (see **bibliography** in the main menu) but you will need to select some extra material in order to produce a satisfactory answer to your chosen essay questions. For further advice on accessing reading resources follow the link Advice on Reading Resources.

Please note that course books are available from Manna Christian Centre. Spurgeon's students receive a 15% discount. Orders made online will also be Postage Free (within the UK). Please visit [www.mannachristiancentre.co.uk](http://www.mannachristiancentre.co.uk) or email [mannabookshop@btconnect.com](mailto:mannabookshop@btconnect.com) or telephone: 0208-769-8588. Please indicate that you are a Spurgeon's College student when you place your order. Manager, David Lock, is very willing to assist students by tracking down books not available on the website.

As a registered Online student you may be able to gain access to academic libraries by applying direct to that library. There is a useful database of UK libraries and other institutions with theological and religious studies collections on the website of the Association of British Theological and Philosophical Libraries (ABTAPL) at <http://www.abtapl.org.uk>. Also many theological colleges and libraries are listed in the *UK Christian Handbook* but please be aware that borrowing may not be possible.

**Planning Your Study**

Remember you will need to record your responses to tasks and reflections in your Learning Journal.

Try to produce a timetable or study plan for this unit. Think about:

- How much time you can give each week to study
- When you want to complete the assignments
- Where you will study (e.g. at home, at College or at a library)
- What subject areas you are particularly interested in
- What you want to achieve through studying this unit



task

**Conclusion**

This introductory session has informed you about the content and expectations of this unit.

At the end of this introductory session, do you:

- Understand the unit and its content?
- Understand the assessment requirements?
- Know how you will complete the study?
- Have an idea about what you want to achieve through this study?



review

Most 10 credit units have only 12 sessions. In the case of this unit the sessions follow the chapters in Roger Hayden's book.

**ENJOY THIS UNIT!**