

Winter 2025/2026 Quarter Classes
Sunday Morning (November-December-January)
November 2, 2025 through January 25, 2026
Class Cancellations/Modifications: None

Title: They Smell Like Sheep (Discussion class)

Teacher: Tom Denton, Graham Fox, Daniel Brooks, Jacob Dowdy, Todd Chambers, and Lee Whitaker (111-113A)

The Hardin Valley church is in a heightened period of growth and change. We were recently blessed to select a new preaching minister and gain a ministerial staff position which can respond to increased pastoral needs at HV. What a blessing! Next up in the spring of 2026, HV will nominate and select new shepherds and reaffirm existing elders.

To prepare HV members for this important decision, the Family Discussion Class is offering a Biblical study into spiritual leadership principles, the work of an elder, the character of an elder, and the heart of a shepherd. The class will primarily draw from Lynn Anderson's books, *They Smell Like Sheep* (Volumes 1 & 2). The class will emphasize Biblical teaching about shepherding and provide an opportunity for class members to discuss and apply these teachings in consideration of the upcoming shepherd selection at HV. The class will also invite current shepherds to serve on a panel where they will share their thoughts, experiences, and important lessons learned during their time of service at HV.

Title: Introduction to the New Testament

Teacher: Larry Cline (115A)

We are continuing our new series **Foundations in Christianity**. This series is designed for folks with little to no Bible experience, but open to anyone who would like a "refresher" in the basics of the Bible and our core beliefs. An *Introduction to the New Testament* highlighting our Lord Jesus began in September and continue through the end of 2025. Then we'll continue with a class detailing our core beliefs called *Hardin Valley: Who we Are* (formerly called Hardin Valley 101). The final class in this series will be taught beginning in January 2026.

Title: Learning From Solomon: Is Everything Really Meaningless?

Teacher: Rick Komistek & Jason Mundie (138R)

We can learn a lot from Solomon. He asked God for Wisdom but gained so much more. He gained an abundance of everything. In our world today, people chase after what Solomon had, but unfortunately, don't pursue a relationship with God. At the end of Ecclesiastes, Solomon says, "Everything is Meaningless" and "Fear God and Keep His Commandments." Did Solomon learn from his mistakes? Can we learn from Solomon's mistakes? In this class, we will explore Solomon's life and together we will take a weekly walk through Ecclesiastes.

Title: A Fresh Look at New Testament Concepts of Worship and Assembly

Teacher: Tom Rucker and Dan Reeves (140R)

Very often the traditions we first encounter calcify into a stubborn expectation of what Christian practices are and must be whether their origin is biblical, cultural, or merely personal experience. This is no more true than with our concepts of worship and assembly. We tend to smuggle our own experiences back into the text, imagining that what 21st-century Western Christians call "worship" or "liturgy," whether dressed in high-church vestments or low-church "Tommy Bahamas", bears any close resemblance to what took place in the primitive Christian assemblies or how those believers conceptualized what they were doing. There is the danger of collapsing the distance between ourselves and the past, mistaking our categories for theirs, our rituals for theirs, our programs for their mission.

In this class, we will offer a fresh look at the New Testament's witness about worship and the assembly. When we actually open the New Testament, a startling fact will confront us: Christian assemblies are never once described as "worship services." The phrase is utterly absent, as though the apostles had somehow forgotten the one thing we remember best. So, we will explore the possibility that we have allowed imagining that the Sunday gathering somehow exhausts worship. We will also propose something richer and more ancient—a New Testament vision of the assembly as the nursery of Christian formation, and of life itself as the arena where worship unfolds. And so, like the noble Bereans, let us search the scriptures to see whether these things are so (Acts 17:11).