



Christian Growth and Disciplemaking
Fall 2020 | Tuesdays | 7:00-8:15 AM

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Description

An introduction to the biblical principles of personal spiritual growth and disciplemaking.

Objectives

A student who successfully completes this course will be better prepared to serve the Church and fulfill the Great Commission by learning to do the following:

1. Define and describe “discipleship” and “mentoring.”
2. Explain how the gospel is one’s motivation, power, and hope for transformation.
3. Articulate a biblical theology of, and approach to, disciplemaking.
4. Demonstrate knowledge and practice of basic spiritual disciplines.
5. Identify contemporary resources for disciplemaking.
6. Demonstrate beginning skills for discipling believers.
7. Articulate a personal strategy for mentoring others in his/her ministry context.
8. Demonstrate improved written and verbal communication skills.

Required Books

- Dever, Mark. *Discipling: How to Help Others Follow Jesus*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2016. 122 pp.
 - Lawless, Chuck. *Mentor (Revised Ed.)* (Member Book). Nashville, Tenn.: Lifeway Christian Resources, 2011. 144 pp.
 - Whitney, Donald S. *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*. Colorado Springs, CO: Navpress, 2014. 352 pp.
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- Whitney, Donald S. *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life: A Study Guide Based on the Book*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2014. 138 pp.

Required Articles

- Excerpt from John Owen, *On Communion With God* [PDF provided by course supervisor]
- Connolly, Mickey. “The Art of Care and Correction.” From *Why Small Groups*, Sovereign Grace Ministries, 1996. 16 pp. [PDF provided by course supervisor]
- Sande, Ken. “Approachability: The Passport to Real Ministry and Leadership.” [PDF provided by course supervisor]

Other articles may be assigned throughout the semester.

Recommended Books

- *Coleman, Robert. *The Master Plan of Evangelism*. Grand Rapids: Revell, 2010. 160 pp.
- *Marshall, Colin and Tony Payne. *The Trellis and the Vine: The Ministry Mind-Shift that Changes Everything*. Kingsford NSW, Australia: Matthias Media, 2009. 196 pp.
- Wax, Trevin. *Eschatological Discipleship: Leading Christians to Understand their Historical and Cultural Context*. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2018. 267 pp.
- Gallaty, Robby and Chris Swain. *Replicate: How to Create a Culture of Disciple-Making Right Where You Are*. Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2020. 336 pp.

* Additional reading required for for-credit students.

Requirements

Outside work includes reading and written assignments. Participants should be able to consistently apply 2-5 hours per week in addition to class meetings to complete reading and assignments. Due dates and times for all course assignments are indicated on the course schedule. Specific assignments include:

- **CLASS PARTICIPATION.** Class meetings include 1.25 hours over 12 weeks. Up to two excused absences may be allowed for participation in the class. When possible, please communicate in advance with instructors of known conflicts for class.
- **REQUIRED READING AND READING REPORT.** The reading requirement for this course includes the books listed below. Reading the assigned pages by the due date is integral to the student's overall course learning. Each student shall email the course instructor a report on his/her reading at the date on the course schedule. For example, the report may say, "I completed all of the assigned reading by the due date as reflected on the course schedule."
- **SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION.** Each student will memorize weekly assigned biblical texts throughout the term. Memorization quizzes will be at the beginning of the following class meetings.

1. Romans 6:23	Quiz Tuesday, 9/15/20
2. John 15:5	Quiz Tuesday, 9/22/20
3. Ephesians 4:1-3	Quiz Tuesday, 9/29/20
4. Colossians 3:17	Quiz Tuesday, 10/6/20
5. 2 Corinthians 8:9	Quiz Tuesday, 10/13/20
6. Matthew 28:18-20	Quiz Tuesday, 10/20/20
7. Psalm 1:1-3	Quiz Tuesday, 10/27/20
8. Psalm 1:4-6	Quiz Tuesday, 11/3/20
9. 2 Timothy 2:1-4	Quiz Tuesday, 11/10/20
- **PERSONAL DISCIPLESHIP STRATEGY.** Students will write a three-page, double-spaced strategy for their personal spiritual formation.
- **LEAD 8-WEEK DISCIPLESHIP GROUP.** Students will assemble and lead a discipleship group of 3-5 persons within their ministry context for 8 weeks. The first 6

weeks will cover “The Gospel Wheel Study” and the final 2 weeks will practice the “H.E.A.R. Method” as directed in class. Meetings will be 60-90 minutes consisting of prayer, Scripture memory, Bible study, and accountability. Additional resources for this will be provided in class.

Grading Scale:

A = 93-100
B = 86-92
C = 76-85
D = 70-75
F = 69 or below

Grade Basis:

Quizzes/Scripture Memory	20%
Participation/Reading/Lectures	20%
Personal Discipleship Paper	25%
Ministry Work	30%

You are expected to...

- Participate in class sessions with a teachable, sincere and enthusiastic attitude.
- Show the highest level of respect and honor to the instructor and fellow classmates.
- Exercise the highest level of integrity and Christ-likeness.
- Attend a minimum of 10 class meetings.

COURSE SCHEDULE

DATE	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT DUE AT CLASS TIME
Tuesday, September 8	What's the point? How's it possible? How the Gospel Motivates, Empowers, and Gives Hope in Sanctification	1) READ John Owen Article 2) READ Whitney Ch. 1
Tuesday, September 15	Train Yourself for Godliness Part 1	1) READ Whitney Chs. 2-5 2) Scripture Memory Quiz #1
Tuesday, September 22	Train Yourself for Godliness Part 2	1) READ Whitney Chs. 6-13 2) Scripture Memory Quiz #2
TBD	EQUIP Night	
Tuesday, September 29	Train Yourself for Godliness Part 3	1) PAPER DUE: PERSONAL DISCIPLESHIP STRATEGY 2) Scripture Memory Quiz #3
Tuesday, October 6	Defining Discipleship	1) READ Dever, <i>Discipling</i> 2) READ Sande "Approachability: The Passport..." 3) Scripture Memory Quiz #4
Tuesday, October 13	O. T. Discipleship;	1) Scripture Memory Quiz #5
Tuesday, October 20	N. T. Discipleship	1) Scripture Memory Quiz #6

Tuesday, October 27	Rival Visions of the Good Life; Evangelical Discipleship Frameworks	1) READ <i>MENTOR</i> Chs. 1-3 2) Scripture Memory Quiz #7
Tuesday, October 6	Mentoring;	1) READ <i>MENTOR</i> Chs. 4-6 2) READ Connolly “The Art of Care and Correction” 3) Scripture Memory Quiz #8
Tuesday, November 3	Accountability and Confrontation; Stewardship of Time	1) Scripture Memory Quiz #9
Tuesday, November 10	Churchwide Discipleship	
Tuesday, November 17	Paper Presentations: Church Discipleship Strategy	1) PAPER DUE 11/17/17: CHURCH DISCIPLESHIP STRATEGY 2) Reading Report

APPENDIX 1

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What Do Discipleship Group Meetings Look Like?

As you practice making disciples, you will come into a rhythm for how a group works. But if you need help getting started, here is a structure that we've learned works.

Your First Meeting

- 1) I use the Spiritual Journey Inventory (see [Appendix 2](#)).
- 2) I share my own testimony with the group. Then I instruct them to prepare their own testimonies to share with the group in the coming weeks.
- 3) I offer a few disclaimers:
 - a) Every disciple is a note-taker. You are not only learning for you; you're learning for the disciple you will make.
 - b) As we talk, don't be the person who monopolizes all of the time. Allow others to answer questions posed by the group.
- 4) I explain the Discipleship Covenant (see [Appendix 3](#)).

Every Week

I. Past

- a. Begin with prayer.
- b. Share highs and lows from the previous week.
- c. Recite memory verses.
- d. Recap your accountability goals from the previous week.

II. Present

- a. Personal insights from Bible reading: Share HEAR journals and hear how God is speaking to those in your group.
- b. After discussing Scripture, you may like to read through another book as a group and spend some time discussing it. Here are a few books you may like to work through together:
 - i. *Discipleship Essentials*—Greg Ogden
 - ii. *Multiply*—Francis Chan
 - iii. *Follow Me*—David Platt
 - iv. *Christian Beliefs*—Wayne Grudem

III. Future

- a. Prepare a plan to practice what you've learned.
- b. Make some goals for the week. Make them measurable, achievable, and prepare to hold your members accountable to them.

IV. End in Prayer

HEAR JOURNAL EXAMPLE:

READ: 1 John 5

DATE: November 5

H (Highlight)

“This is the confidence we have before him: If we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears whatever we ask, we know that we have what we have asked of him.” (1 John 5:14–15)

E (Explain)

Verses like these can be confusing because the idea of a God who gives us whatever we want is attractive. The key in this passage is “according to his will.” The idea may be summarized like this: Make your wants God's wants, and then ask for whatever you want.

A (Apply)

I find myself wanting all sorts of things. Sometimes it's something different every day. I need to focus on aligning myself with God's will so that when I ask something, it's already something that He wants too. His ways are higher than mine, so are His wants higher than my wants.

R (Respond)

Father, make me more like You in every way—in my thoughts, actions, and desires. Make the desires of my heart the same things Your heart desires, so that I can devote