

Discipleship

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Western Reformed Seminary

Spring 2024

COURSE GOALS

Discipleship is a vital activity in the life of the Church, carried out by pastors, officers, and even laity who strive to assist believer's progress in spiritual maturity, commitment to the Christian faith, and ability to disciple others in turn. This course examines the discipling techniques of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Apostles as recorded in the Scriptures, explains how discipleship fits in the overall ministry of a local church, describes the basic needs of disciples, and identifies various techniques for training in the various stages of development of growth for faithful disciples.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

- 1. Students should be able to demonstrate a deep understanding of the biblical basis of discipleship, citing key passages and theological principles related to discipleship.*
- 2. Students will commit assigned key Scripture passages related to discipleship to memory.*
- 3. Students should be able to identify and explain the discipling techniques of our Lord and the Apostles.*
- 4. Students should be able to demonstrate the ability to disciple others in a manner appropriate to the maturity level of their target individual or group, including setting goals, creating discipleship plans, and providing spiritual guidance and support.*
- 5. Students should be able to explain how discipleship contributes to leadership formation within the church.*
- 6. Students will demonstrate through weekly reporting during the semester that they are putting the lessons learned in class regarding discipleship to practical use in various ministry contexts.*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Objective</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
1/23	Introduction, Need for Discipleship	---
1/30	Jesus the Discippler, Part 1	Practicum Report; John 17 reading
2/6	Jesus the Discippler, Part 2	Practicum Report
2/13	Jesus the Discippler, Part 3	Practicum Report
2/20	Discipleship in the Early Church	Practicum Report
2/27	Making Disciples	Practicum Report
3/5	Training Objectives – Basic Needs	Practicum Report; Matthew reading
3/12	Training Objectives – Basic Needs	Practicum Report
3/19	Milk to Meat	Practicum Report
3/26	Spring Recess	---
4/2	Your Own Discipleship	PACKER Due , Practicum Report
4/9	Developing Workers, Part 1	Practicum Report
4/16	Developing Workers, Part 2	Practicum Report

4/23	Developing Leadership, Part 1	Practicum Report, Paper Due
4/30	Developing Leadership, Part 2	Practicum Report
5/7	Final Exam	

Course Requirements

READING – 25%

J. I. Packer, *A Quest for Godliness: The Puritan View of the Christian Life*. Crossway, 2010. Reprint edition. ISBN 978-1433515811

Scripture Readings: John 17 (read 10x); Matthew 4:18-25:46 (3x). Due as noted above.

MEMORY WORK – 15%

You must memorize Acts 18:24-28 and Hebrews 5:11-6:3, 7-8 (any conservative translation – please specify).

- Memory work must be written in the presence of a proctor and submitted anytime in April.

PRACTICUM – 20%

Working under the guidance of your church leadership, take on a discipleship ministry with either an individual or a group in the church or community at large (your family is also an appropriate group with which to work). Put your goals, methods, and time frame (1-3 months in duration) into writing and submit it to me via email at lenpine@gmail.com by the second week of class. I will approve it for the purposes of our class, and then require a detailed report on your work in which you evaluate goal achievement, methodology, and problem-solving through the course of your ministry.

PAPER – 20%

Write a 2000 word essay dealing with the one of the following topics:

- Bringing children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord
- Critique the “mentorship” model of discipleship as currently practiced
- Jesus’ strategy for growing the Twelve outlined and explained
- Missions: Training national believers for independent leadership

Style is to be in conformity with the latest version of the current writing manual approved by WRS.

FINAL EXAM – 20%

The Final will cover lecture material only. You will take it in the last class period (I will be online), and submit it to me for grading that day.