

# ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

## *PTH 650 Building the Disciple-Making Ministry*

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### COURSE SYLLABUS

#### COURSE DESCRIPTION

A thorough study of the process and means for developing disciples, based on the model of Jesus and the early Church. This course also addresses the hindrances to discipleship in the contemporary church and considers the motivations needed for sustained discipleship. In addition, it provides a holistic examination of the attitudes and actions of a disciple in the areas of spiritual life and service, daily living, and relationships. Finally, it examines the relationship between personal growth and discipleship.

#### COURSE OBJECTIVES

To satisfactorily complete this course, the student will achieve these objectives:

1. Develop an understanding of how Jesus and the early church made disciples.
2. Identify the personal, organizational, and cultural hindrances to discipleship.
3. Discover the motivations for and means of discipleship.
4. Identify the qualities needed by disciplers and potential disciples.
5. Be aware of various contemporary models of discipleship in churches and parachurch organizations.
6. Learn the actions and attitudes of a disciple in the major areas of life.
7. Appreciate the relationship between personal growth and discipleship.

#### REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Cloud, Henry and John Townsend. *How People Grow—What the Bible Reveals about Personal Growth*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2001.

Barna, George. *Growing True Disciples—New Strategies for Producing Genuine Followers of Christ*. Colorado Springs, CO: Waterbrook Press, 2001  
*Select Readings, 2004* (3 sets are available in the library on 2 hour reserve)

## **RECOMMENDED READING**

Boa, Kenneth. *Conformed to His Image—Biblical and Practical Approaches to Spiritual Formation*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2001.

Coleman, Robert E. *The Master Plan of Evangelism*. Old Tappan, N.J.: Fleming H. Revell.

Willard, Dallas. *The Divine Conspiracy*. San Francisco: Harper, 1998. (Chapters 1-3, 8, 9).

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

### **I. BIBLICAL MODEL OF DISCIPLESHIP**

1. Jesus
2. Early Church

### **II. HINDRANCES TO DISCIPLESHIP**

1. Ministry weaknesses: inferior goals and approaches
2. Cultural subversion: seductions and misbeliefs
3. Personal issues: misplaced priorities and intrapersonal deficiencies

### **III. THE PROCESS AND MEANS OF DISCIPLESHIP**

1. Activity and enabling of God's Spirit
2. Motivating factors
3. Understanding and applying of God's Word
4. Spiritual disciplines
5. Community—modeling, prayer, support, vulnerability, accountability, shared experiences
6. Life circumstances
7. Disciplers and potential disciples

### **IV. CONTEMPORARY MODELS OF DISCIPLESHIP**

1. Church models
2. Para-church models

### **V. DISCIPLESHIP IN SPIRITUAL LIFE**

1. Passion for God
2. Prayer life
3. Knowledge of and obedience to God's Word
4. Trust in God's provision

5. Minimizing the old nature, dealing with temptation and sin
6. Character of Jesus
7. Sensitivity and obedience to God's Spirit
8. Fullness of God's Spirit
9. Development of spiritual gifts for service
10. Commitment to life stewardship and mission
11. Decision-making and God's will
12. Spiritual warfare
13. Ongoing renewal and growth

#### VI. DISCIPLESHIP IN DAILY LIVING

1. Work
2. Success
  3. Money and possessions
4. Time issues—busyness, stress, priorities
5. Values and integrity
6. Personal improvement
7. Recreation and entertainment

#### VII. DISCIPLESHIP IN RELATIONSHIPS

1. Family
2. Church
3. Opposite sex: dating, romantic love, sexual morality
4. Authority and government
5. Spiritually lost
6. Needy people

#### VIII. DISCIPLESHIP IN SERVANTHOOD

1. Concern for a lost world
2. Compassion for the needy
3. Concern for social and economic justice
4. Care for the environment

#### IX. DISCIPLESHIP AND PERSONAL GROWTH

1. Overcoming personal immaturity and weaknesses
2. Overcoming developmental issues
3. Overcoming low self-esteem
  4. Overcoming persistent negative feelings and inner pain
  5. Overcoming addictive patterns

#### **METHODOLOGY**

Class and small group discussions, brief student presentations, class notes, select readings, lectures, and guest presentations will facilitate learning. Papers will be assigned to enhance knowledge in a specific area of discipleship selected by each student.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

1. Attend on time and participate in all **class sessions**. Bring textbooks on the first weekend (September 3-4).
2. Read each of the two **textbooks** (Barna and Cloud & Townsend) and prepare a two page "Reading Analysis" for each. Cite useful insights, other benefits, limitations, and its overall value to you. Do **not** simply summarize the content, rather give your **evaluation** of it. These are **due at the beginning of class on September 3**.

The value of a weekend module is greatly enhanced when the student has had prior opportunity to read and reflect on the material. Consequently, late submission will result in a lower grade.

You do **not** need to prepare an analysis for the Select Readings, but you should have read the material by the third weekend (October 22) of classes.

3. From the list provided on the first day of class, choose a book (or part of one) on which to do a **report for class** during the second weekend (**September 24-25**). Make a 6 minute presentation, including your evaluation of the book. Share one or two insights most valuable to you. Provide each student with a two page outline or summary of the contents and essential points.
4. Take a **midterm examination** (take-home). **Due Tuesday, October 5, 4:00 p.m.** Submit to the Faculty Secretary or mail with postmark no later than due date.
5. Write a **research paper** on a topic selected from sections VI to IX of the Course Outline (excluding VII-1, 2, & 5 and VIII-1). Each paper should be 11 to 13 pages double-spaced. These are as **due on Friday, October 22, 1:00 p.m.**

Be prepared to present a concise 10 minute summary in class. Provide a two page outline or summary for each student.

Do **not** simply summarize content from sources, but analyze and synthesize your research. Summaries and lists which exceed one-third of a page should be placed in an appendix. Be sure to cite your sources through a attached bibliography and footnotes. The purpose of the papers is to help you **understand and develop** material on topics of interest to you.

**Format:** Use Times- New Roman font, 12 point type. Make all margins 1” and place page numbers in the upper right hand corner. Quotes longer than two lines should be single-spaced and indented.

**Recommendations for Papers.** Strive to write at a graduate level, realizing that what may have been acceptable in undergraduate work may not be for Master’s degree papers. While the quality of your content is the most important, the use of poor grammar, punctuation, spelling, and style detracts. Deficiencies in these areas will result in a lower grade. (After graduation, they will reflect poorly on your ministry.) If possible, ask several people knowledgeable in English and writing to thoroughly critique your work before submission. Recognize, as all good writers do, that extensive rewriting is a normal part of writing well. Allow time for the process of revision, which may require several drafts.

### **GRADING PROCEDURE**

|                                    |            |      |
|------------------------------------|------------|------|
| Reading analysis: Barna            | 10 points  | 4%   |
| Reading analysis: Cloud & Townsend | 10 points  | 4%   |
| Book report for class              | 10 points  | 4%   |
| Class participation                | 20 points  | 8%   |
| Midterm                            | 100 points | 40%  |
| Paper                              | 100 points | 40%  |
| <hr/>                              |            |      |
| TOTAL                              | 250 points | 100% |

### **Penalties for late submission**

Reading analysis: 2 points per day or fraction thereof

Midterm: 2 points per day or fraction thereof, up to a maximum of one week

Book report for class: 4 points per day or fraction thereof

Paper: 20 points per day or fraction thereof

### **SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY**

This will be distributed in class.

### **SPECIFIC DATA**

Syllabus revised by Steve Lim, July 1, 2004