

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

PTHM 650 Building the Disciple-Making Ministry

Dr. Steve Lim

June 26-30, 2006

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 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.

Lim, Steve. *More Like Jesus—Comprehensive Strategies for Serious Disciple-Making*. (Manuscript in progress)

Scazzero, Peter. *The Emotionally Healthy Church: A Strategy for Discipleship that Actually Changes lives*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing, 2003

RECOMMENDED READING

Barna, George. *Growing True Disciples*. Colorado Springs, CO: Waterbrook Press, 2001. **State of discipleship in the U.S. and proposals for improvement**

Crabb, Larry. *Connecting: Healing for Ourselves & Our Relationships*. Nashville, TN: Word Publishing, 1997. **Authentic relationships as a means**

Gorman, Julie. *Community that is Christian: A Handbook of Small Groups, 2nd ed.* Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2002. **Small groups as a means**

Sider, Ronald J. *The Scandal of the Evangelical Conscience: Why Are Christian Lives Just Like the Rest of the World?* Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2005. **Servanthood as a goal**

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
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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, and lectures 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 to class on the first day and on other days as specified.
2. Read each of the **textbooks** 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 June 26**.

The value of a week-long 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.

3. From the list provided on the first day of class, choose a reading on which to do a **report for class**. Make a 6 minute presentation, including your evaluation of it. Share one or two insights most valuable to you. Provide each student with a one to two page outline or summary of the contents and essential points.
4. An examination will be sent to you by email attachment on July 7. This exam should be taken and returned, postmarked or dated no later than **July 18**.
5. Write a **research paper** on a topic selected from the options given in class, This should total 10—12 pages double-spaced. These should be dated or postmarked no later than **August 7, 2005**.

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 endnotes. The purpose of the papers is to help you **understand and develop** material on topics of interest to you. Be concise. Include as many insights as practical. A minimum of 6 sources should be utilized in your research.

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: Lim	10 points	4%
Reading analysis: Cloud & Townsend	10 points	4%
Reading Analysis: Scazzero	10 points	4%
Class participation	20 points	8%
Examination	100 points	40%
Paper	100 points	40%
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TOTAL	250 points	100%

Penalties for late submission

Reading analysis: 2 points per day or fraction thereof

Examination: 2 points per day or fraction thereof, up to a maximum of one week. No exams received after that

Paper: 2 points per day or fraction thereof, up to a maximum of two weeks. No papers Received after that

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

This will be distributed in class.

SPECIFIC DATA

Syllabus revised by Steve Lim, March 2006