

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

PTH 650 Building the Disciple-Making Ministry

Dr. Steve Lim.

Fall 2003

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A thorough study of the process and means involved in 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

Lim, Steve. *Class Notes and Select Readings, 2003*

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. Inferior goals and strategies
2. Cultural subversion
3. Personal priorities and limitations

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. Short papers will be assigned to enhance knowledge in specific areas of discipleship selected by each student.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Attend and participate in all class sessions. Bring textbooks and Select Readings.
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**. These are **due at the beginning of class** on the following days:

Barna **Friday, September 5**

Cloud & Townsend **Friday, October 3**

You do **not** need to prepare an analysis for the Select Readings, but you should have read the material and be familiar with it. 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.

3. Take a midterm examination (take-home). **Due Tuesday, October 13, 4:00 p.m.**
4. Write two research papers on topics selected from sections VI to IX of the Course Outline (excluding VII-1, 2, & 5 and VIII-1). Each paper should be 7 to 8 pages double-spaced. These are as **due as follows**:

First paper **Friday, November 7, 1:00 p.m.**

Be prepared to present a concise, 6 minute summary in class.
Provide a one page outline for each student.

Second paper **Friday, December 5, 4:00 p.m.**

Do **not** simply summarize content from sources, but evaluate 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.

One Grace Period. If necessary, a "no questions asked" extension of up to two weeks will be granted on **ONE** of the two papers, without a reduction in grade. The first paper would then be due by **Friday, November 21 by 4:00 p.m.** The second paper would then be due by **Friday, December 19 by 4:00 p.m.** Please note that this grace period applies to only **ONE** paper. *No papers will be accepted after these dates.*

GRADING PROCEDURE

Reading analyses	8%
Class participation, including presentation	8%
Midterm	28%
1 st paper	28%
2 nd paper	28%

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

This will be distributed in class.

SPECIFIC DATA

Syllabus revised by Steve Lim, July 21, 2003