Course Description

A biblical theology of ministry must be rooted in the life-changing discipleship ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ, as well as the Apostle Paul’s life of discipleship, applying the principles they used for transformation. Examining the meaning of a disciple in the Old and New Testaments, along with how the word has been used historically, this course will equip pastors with detailed, practical steps to apply life-on-life discipleship within their personal lives, those of their families, and the church locally and globally.

Course Objectives

At the completion of the course, the participant will be equipped to:

- More effectively comprehend the theological and historical meaning of a disciple
- Understand and practically apply the Biblical foundation of life-on-life missional discipleship
- Grasp and implement transformational principles that Jesus used with his disciples
- More effectively train and equip discipleship leaders to love and lead others with grace
- More deeply appreciate the Biblical role of a pastor and to assess their personal life and ministry, along with their church’s ministries, in light of life-on-life missional discipleship
- Clearly comprehend and communicate the difference between traditional small and cell groups with a life-on-life missional discipleship group
- Specifically know how to begin a life-on-life missional discipleship ministry personally and in their church

Course Outline

Topics to be covered will include:

- Discipleship in the Old and New Testaments
- Biblical, Theological, and Historical Study of “Disciple”
- Jesus’ Strategy and Method of Discipleship
- Biblical Principles for Discipling Others
- Biblical Attitude of Discipleship Leaders
- Spiritual Formation Pathway and Process
- Biblical Role of a Pastor
Required Readings


Pope, Randy. *Insourcing: Bringing Discipleship Back to the Local Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2013. (224 pages)


Recommended Readings


**Course Assessment**

A dossier of 6 discipleship material lessons will be due by May 15, 2014 to the RTS-Atlanta D.Min. registrar. The lessons will be written using the five transformational principles used by Jesus, with any topics the participant desires to use. The topics should be cleared with the professor in advance (a simple email communication will suffice). This dossier will be submitted as 6 documents. Lessons will be evaluated primarily regarding how they effectively use Scripture along with Jesus’ transformational principles. (This dossier is considered the equivalent of a 30-40 page paper.)

**Reading and Writing Requirements**

In addition to the above course assessment dossier, there will be several short projects. The details of each of these projects or assignments are below. Please complete the assignments in order.

As you read the required readings have the following guidelines in mind: What did you learn from each book that enhances your understanding of Biblical discipleship as it relates to your personal life and ministry? What are the strengths and agreements you have? What are the weaknesses and disagreements you have? The professor will also agree and disagree with the views of each author, so read with Biblical lenses and try not to judge instantly, but meditate and pray over your thoughts and feelings.

Purchase and read all the required reading books (you can purchase them online at amazon.com). Present your written assignments in typed, 12-point Times New Roman font, using WORD and the standard RTS format. For all assignments you can use either 1 ½ or double spacing.

The due dates for each assignment are below. You may turn in the assignments early. You can e-mail your assignments to montes@perimeter.org.
**Assignment 1: Past Personal Discipleship Experience – Due February 6th**

Reflect upon your past personal discipleship experience before you read any of the core reading books. In 2-3 pages reflect on how you have personally been involved with “discipleship” in the past. Make sure to answer the following questions (if applicable):

1. How have you been involved with personal discipleship?
2. How have you been involved with group discipleship?
3. If you have been involved with group discipleship, what was the nature of the arrangement of your past and/or present discipleship relationships?
4. If you have never been involved in group discipleship, why do you think it never happened?
5. Was your group discipleship a positive or negative experience?
6. How is “discipleship” a part of your personal, family, community and church life today?
7. How has personal and/or group discipleship made you feel emotionally?
8. How has personal and/or group discipleship impacted your deep longings, or not?

**Assignment 2: 8 Principles of Jesus (Master Plan of Evangelism) – Due February 21st**

In 3-4 pages reflect on your interactive reading with Robert E. Coleman as he unpacks 8 principles of Jesus’ life with His men. Make sure to answer the following questions:

1. How did this book impact your thinking about your personal ministry and church strategy?
2. Of the 8 principles, which 1 or 2 do you believe the church in general is weak, and which 1 or 2 do you believe she is strong?
3. Do you believe Coleman backs up these principles with Scripture and that he is accurate on his interpretation?
4. Of the 8 principles, which 1 is your personal weakest, and which 1 is your strongest?

**Assignment 3: A Biblical and Theological View (Following the Master) – Due March 14th**

In 4-5 pages reflect on your interactive reading with Michael J. Wilkins as he dissects discipleship throughout the Scriptures and Church History. Make sure to answer the following questions:

1. Of the 5 models in chapter 2, which models have you been taught and what models have you been involved with in the past? Describe your experiences.
2. Were there any areas in which you disagreed with Wilkins? If so, explain. If not, share how reading this book deepened your conviction of Biblical Discipleship.
3. What did you learn about Old Testament Discipleship?
4. What did you learn about Jesus’ discipleship in the Gospels, especially his essential characteristics to discipleship?
5. What are your thoughts of Wilkins’ 3 Marks of a True Disciple from the book of John?
6. What did you learn about discipleship in Acts and the Epistles?
7. After reading Wilkins, what are the implications for your personal life and church ministry?
Assignment 4: Developing Leaders (Training of the Twelve) – Due April 4th

In 3-5 pages reflect on your interactive reading with A.B. Bruce as he explains Jesus’ model of training His men to become leaders. Read through the end of chapter 18, page 316. Make sure to answer the following questions:

1. In chapter 2, Bruce shares about 3 stages of Jesus’ ministry with His men. How might these three stages impact your personal and church ministry?
2. What did you learn about the similarities and differences of the twelve Apostles and how might this affect how you choose and select men?
3. How important was for the Apostles to be with Jesus and see His whole life?
4. In chapter 8, what did you learn about how Jesus taught His men to evangelize?
5. In chapter 14, what did you learn about the heart and love of Jesus?
6. How did Bruce build and form your biblical understanding of discipleship?

Assignment 5: Holistic Discipleship (The Complete Book of Discipleship) – Due April 25th

In 3-5 pages reflect on your interactive reading with Bill Hull as he builds a foundation of holistic discipleship. Make sure to answer the following questions:

1. In chapter 1, explain how you agree or disagree with Hull’s assessment of “God’s Primary Work?”
2. In chapter 2, what would you delete or add to Hull’s list of 5 things a disciple should be today? What do you think about the statement that the church needs to focus more on numbers 1 and 5?
3. In chapter 5, do you believe Hull’s necessary ingredients are important to making disciple makers? Why or why not?
4. In chapter 9, Hull discusses principles for every group. What are your thoughts about his group principles?
5. How important is reproduction and multiplication?
6. How has Hull shaped your view of life on life missional discipleship?

Assignment 6: Love Like Jesus (Loved Walked Among Us) – Due May 9th

In 3-4 pages reflect on your interactive reading with Paul Miller as he exposes the heart of Jesus. Make sure to answer the following questions:

1. How have you experienced Jesus seeing you, having compassion on you, and moving toward you in action?
2. Where and how do you struggle the most and need Jesus to do heart surgery on you – judging, self-righteousness, legalism, etc.?
3. Are you more of a compassionate person or an honest person? How does this affect your personal ministry?
4. What keeps you from being fully dependent on God?
5. What does faith and also unbelief look like in your life today?
6. What did you learn from Jesus about loving under pressure?
7. How has Miller’s book influenced your heart’s longings to love people well?

Assignment 7: Making Disciple Makers (Transforming Discipleship) – Due May 23rd

In 3-4 pages reflect on your interactive reading with Greg Ogden as he shares the importance of making generational disciples.
1. In chapter 1, how did you rate your personal ministry in his 7 areas? What did you learn from doing this?
2. After reading chapter 2, what are the primary root causes in your personal ministry and also in your church?
3. How has Ogden’s view of Paul’s Spiritual Parenting influenced your understanding of discipleship?
4. What are your thoughts on the theme of “relationship is everything” running through Ogden’s book? How does relationally investing in a few cause transformation and multiplication?
5. How has Ogden changed or enhanced your view of being a disciple maker?

Assignment 8: Spiritual Growth and Maturity (Real Life Discipleship) – Due June 6th

In 2-3 pages reflect on your interactive reading with Jim Putman as he shares his plan for spiritual growth in the church. Make sure to answer the following questions:
1. In chapter 2, how would you respond to Putman’s view of Matthew 4:19?
2. On page 78, Putman reveals a spiritual growth diagram. How important is it to know, when you are leading someone, where they are in their personal journey? Why or why not?
3. What is your view of storytelling?
4. After reading Putman, how would you find and develop leaders?
5. What is the greatest application for your ministry from reading this book?

Assignment 9: Local Church Discipleship (Insourcing) – Due June 20th

In 3-4 pages reflect on your interactive reading with Randy Pope as he addresses the need for life on life missional discipleship to be a priority in the local church. Make sure to answer the following questions:
1. Before taking this course, what was your personal pastoral model? What has changed about your pastoral lifestyle as a result of your studies the last several months?
2. How has “situational leadership” and TEAMS influenced the way you seek to build and develop leaders?
3. In your opinion, what are the strategies for having both small groups and discipleship groups? How are the traditionally different?
4. How vital do you think coaching is in creating and sustaining a discipleship movement?
5. How can you influence others you lead to become more missional?
6. What desires in your heart have awakened from interacting with this book?

Grading:

The final grading for this course will be determined based on the following criteria:
1. Classroom and Clinic Participation (25%)
2. Assignments (25%)
3. Course Assessment (50%)

Contact Information

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montes@perimeter.org

Office Hours: Always available by appointment, including phone and Skype.
# Course Objectives Related to DMin* Student Learning Outcomes

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<th>DMin* Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Biblical/ Theological Foundations:</strong></td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Interaction with the Scriptures, Old and New Testament texts, with a focus on Jesus in the Gospels</td>
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<tr>
<td>Significant knowledge of biblical and theological foundations for pastoral ministry. (This includes interaction with Biblical texts, as well as awareness of Reformed Theology.)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Historical/ Contemporary Practices:</strong></td>
<td>Moderate/ Strong</td>
<td>Significant readings relating to past and current experts in historical and modern practical discipleship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Significant knowledge of historical and contemporary practices of pastoral ministry.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Integration:</strong></td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Course integrates theology, bible, and discipleship in relevant application of personal and church ministry</td>
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<td>Ability to reflect upon and integrate theology and practice, as well as implementation in a contemporary pastoral setting.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sanctification:</strong></td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Study of the Trinity’s “with-ness” and how their grace is used to make disciples and bring them to maturity in Christ</td>
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<td>Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids in the student’s sanctification.</td>
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