

Course Description:

The Next Generation Discipleship course is offered in partnership with Mission to the World's Global Youth and Family Institute. This course will assist students in developing a practical theology of youth and family ministry—grounded in God's word and guided by his kingdom trajectory. Participants will be introduced to the unique psychosocial, cultural and developmental issues of adolescence, and explore implications for spiritual formation in adolescence and emerging adulthood. The Next Generation Discipleship course will help students understand and engage the emerging generation with the gospel, while leading parents, volunteers and church leadership in kind. Participants will be introduced to a meta-model for next generation ministry—assisting in the development of theologically grounded yet highly contextualized models of ministry. Using these tools, participants will be given the opportunity to develop and evaluate their own ministry model. Upon completion of the course, participants will see youth and family ministry as integral to the life and mission of the global church, and be challenged to lead the church in reaching the emerging generation across North America and around the world.

Vision:

By God's grace, the Next Generation Discipleship course will be devotional and practical, as well as intellectual. Customization to class needs and inquiry will be highly valued and pursued. Each student will share expertise and experience, as well as questions. It will be a place where passion will predominate and struggle welcomed. Throughout the course, students will experience camaraderie as we journey together. Upon completion, each one will leave the class with a greater burden for reaching the next generation with the love of Christ, and greater dependence on Christ in following that call. All this rests upon the work of God who alone can build his kingdom through the Spirit's work in our lives together.

Requirements/ Grading:

Class Participation:

1. Attendance
2. Discussion

Reading:

Required:

1. *Four Views of Youth Ministry and the Church* by Wesley Black, Chap Clark, Malan Nel, and Mark H. Senter III (class discussion)
2. *Revisiting Relational Youth Ministry* by Andrew Root (class discussion)
3. *Hurt: Inside the World of Today's Teenagers* by Chap Clark
4. *Engaging the Soul of Youth Culture* by Walt Mueller
5. *Emerging Adulthood* by Jeffery Arnett

Professor: Dr. Eric Larsen

6. *Cultural Intelligence: Improving Your CQ to Engage A Multicultural World* by David Livermore
7. *Purpose Driven Youth Ministry* by Doug Fields

Recommended:

1. *Age of Opportunity* by Paul Tripp
2. *Starting Right* by Kenda Creasy Dean, Chap Clark, and Dave Rahn
3. *Family Based Youth Ministry*, by Mark DeVries
4. *The Space Between: A Parents Guide to Teenage Development* by Walt Mueller
5. *Why do they Act that Way? A survival guide to the adolescent brain for you and your teen* by David Walsh
6. *Branded: The buying and selling of teenagers* by Alissa Quart
7. *The Hip Hop Generation: Young blacks and the crisis in African-American culture* by Bakari Kitwana
8. *Third Culture Kids: The experience of growing up among worlds* by Dave Pollock & Ruth VanReken
9. *Your First Two Years in Youth Ministry* by Doug Fields
10. *Contemplative Youth Ministry* by Mark Yaconelli
11. *Sustainable Youth Ministry* by Mark DeVries

Group Project: (in class)

For this exercise, each group will play the role of a ministry consulting team. The goal is to use the *template for model development and critique* (presented in class) to:

1. Evaluate/ constructively critique each one's next-gen ministry model
2. Offer encouragement, insights and suggestions
3. And outline strategies for renewal

Final Paper:

Purpose:

The final paper allows participants to emerge from this course with a well-developed and articulated theology of next generation ministry and a strategy for implementation in each student's respective context. (For length and format see RTS KDMin guidelines)

Contact Info:

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Bio:

Eric and Rebecca were married in 1993 and have been working in youth ministry since 1990—Eric as a youth pastor and Rebecca in opening their home, discipling girls, and mentoring women in ministry. An ordained pastor, Eric has degrees from Covenant College, Covenant Seminary, and Fuller Theological Seminary where he earned a doctorate in youth, family, and culture. He serves as adjunct professor for Covenant Theological Seminary, Reformed Theological Seminary, and Christ Bible Seminary

Professor: Dr. Eric Larsen

(Japan). The Larsens desire to see ministers equipped to lead the global Church in reaching the emerging generation.

Eric directs the Global Youth and Family Ministry and Institute. This includes recruiting, training, sending, and sustaining youth ministers around the world. Their goal is to develop youth ministry movements by equipping missionaries, national leaders, and indigenous churches to reach the next generation. Along with reaching global youth, the Larsens invest in mission kids by providing resources, training, and care for these Third Culture Kids (TCK) and their parents. Because Eric is a TCK himself, and because both he and Rebecca grew up as children of ministry leaders, they understand the unique challenges these families face. Please pray for the Larsens and their vision of "*Reaching the Nations and the Next Generation.*"

Abigail (2/2/98), Meghan (2/11/00), Natalie (6/11/02), Emma (8/31/04)