

Reformed Theological Seminary- Atlanta  
Discipleship and Pastoral Ministry - 04PT729

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

(2 credit hours)

Winter 2017

Dr. Monte Starkes

(January 5-6, 12-13, 19-20)

(Fridays 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm; Saturdays 8:30 am – 4:30 pm)

**Course Description**

The vision of this course is to equip participants to biblically grasp and implement the life of Jesus and His ministry of discipleship that would impact them personally, their families, and the church worldwide.

This course will begin by looking at the meaning of a disciple in the Old and New Testaments, along with how the word has been used historically. The life of Jesus and the principles he used for transformation will be specifically examined, with an additional look at Paul's life of discipleship. The course will lead participants to detailed steps to apply life on life missional discipleship to their personal lives and church ministry.

**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
- Pursue the hearts of others to hit the target of lasting transformation, while discovering how to live out of the deep waters of their own hearts
- Design personalized training to practically think and have a specific plan for those they are leading
- 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
- The Biblical Heart and the Skill to Pursue Others
- The Power of Association
- Designing Personalized Training for Discipling Others

## **Required Readings:**

Bruce, A.B. *The Training of the Twelve*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel, second edition, 2000. (239 pages – selected)

Coleman, Robert E. *The Master Plan of Evangelism*. Grand Rapids, MI: Revell, Reprint Edition, 2006. (192 pages)

Wilkins, Michael J. *Following the Master: A Biblical Theology of Discipleship*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1992. (360 pages)

## **Recommended Readings:**

- Anderson, Keith R. and Randy D. Reese. *Spiritual Mentoring: A Guide for Seeking and Giving Direction*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1999.
- Barna, George. *Growing True Disciples: New Strategies for Producing Genuine Followers of Christ*. Colorado Springs, CO: Waterbrook Press, 2001.
- Boa, Kenneth. *Conformed to His Image: Biblical and Practical Approaches to Spiritual Formation*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2001.
- Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *The Cost of Discipleship*. New York: MacMillan, 1959.
- Briscoe, Stuart. *Everyday Discipleship for Ordinary People*. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1988.
- Hadidian, Allen. *Discipleship: Helping Other Christians Grow*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1979.
- Hull, Bill. *The Complete Book of Discipleship: On Being and Making Followers of Christ*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2006.
- MacArthur, John. *Twelve Ordinary Men: How the Master Shaped His Disciples for Greatness, and What He Wants to Do with You*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2002.
- Marshall, Colin and Tony Payne. *The Trellis and the Vine: The Ministry Mind-Shift that Changes Everything*. Kingsford, Australia: Matthias Media, 2009.
- Meye, Robert P. *Jesus and the Twelve: Discipleship and Revelation in Mark's Gospel*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1968.
- Miller, Paul. *Loved Walked Among Us*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2006.
- Ogden, Greg. *Transforming Discipleship: Making Disciples a Few at a Time*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2016.
- Peterson, Jim. *Lifestyle Discipleship: Encouraging Others to Spiritual Maturity*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 1993.
- Pope, Randy. *Insourcing: Bringing Discipleship Back to the Local Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2013.
- Putman, Jim. *Real-Life Discipleship: Building Churches that Make Disciples*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2010.
- Willard, Dallas. *The Great Omission: Reclaiming Jesus's Essential Teachings on Discipleship*. San Francisco: Harper, 2006.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Divine Conspiracy: Rediscovering Our Hidden Life in God*. San Francisco: Harper, 1998.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Renovation of the Heart: Putting on the Character of Christ*. Colorado Springs: Navpress, 2002.
- Wilson, Carl W. *With Christ in the School of Disciple Building: The Ministry Methods of Jesus: Revised and Updated*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2009.

## **Course Assessment**

A dossier of 3 discipleship material lessons will be due by February 19, 2017. The lessons will be written using the five transformational principles used by Jesus, with any topic the student desires to use. The topic should be cleared with the professor in advance (a simple email communication will suffice). Lessons will be evaluated primarily regarding how they effectively use Scripture along with Jesus' transformational principles. (This dossier is considered the equivalent of a 15-18 page paper.)

## **Contact Information**

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Office Hours: Always available by appointment, including phone and Skype / Zoom

## **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](mailto:montes@perimeter.org).

### **Assignment 1: Past Personal Discipleship Experience – Due Jan. 6 (second day of class)**

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 (personal relationship with Jesus)?
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. How 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 January 12 (second weekend)**

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? Explain your answers.
3. Do you believe Coleman backs up these 8 principles with Scripture and that he is accurate on his interpretation? Explain your answers.
4. Of the 8 principles, which 1 is your personal weakest, and which 1 is your strongest? Explain why.

### **Assignment 3: Developing Leaders (Training of the Twelve) – Due Jan. 19 (third weekend)**

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 14, page 239. 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 4: A Biblical and Theological View (Following the Master) – Due Feb. 12**

In 4-5 pages reflect on your interactive reading with Michael 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?

#### **Grading:**

The final grading for this course will be determined based on the following criteria:

1. Classroom Participation (25%)
2. Assignments (25%)
3. Course Assessment (50%)