

Reformed Theological Seminary- Atlanta
04DM801 Theology of Ministry: Life-on-Life Missional Discipleship
COURSE SYLLABUS
(3 credit hours)
Spring term 2014
Dr. Monte Starkes
(February 6-8, 2014; 8:30 am – 4:30 pm plus 15 hours of follow up sessions)

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

- Bruce, A.B. *The Training of the Twelve*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel, second edition, 2000. (@300 pages – selected)
- Coleman, Robert E. *The Master Plan of Evangelism*. Grand Rapids, MI: Revell, Reprint Edition, 2006. (192 pages)
- Hull, Bill. *The Complete Book of Discipleship: On Being and Making Followers of Christ*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2006. (352 pages)
- Miller, Paul. *Loved Walked Among Us*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2006. (224 pages)
- Ogden, Greg. *Transforming Discipleship: Making Disciples a Few at a Time*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2003. (209 pages)
- Pope, Randy. *Insourcing: Bringing Discipleship Back to the Local Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2013. (224 pages)
- Putman, Jim. *Real-Life Discipleship: Building Churches that Make Disciples*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2010. (208 pages)
- Wilkins, Michael J. *Following the Master: A Biblical Theology of Discipleship*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1992. (400 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.
- 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.

Peterson, Jim. *Lifestyle Discipleship: Encouraging Others to Spiritual Maturity*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 1993.

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.

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 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.)

Contact Information

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Course Objectives Related to DMin* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: 04DM801 Theology of Ministry: Life-on-Life Missional Discipleship
 Professor: Dr. Monte Starkes
 Campus: RTS Atlanta
 Date: February 6-8, 2014 (plus 15 hrs of follow up sessions)

DMin* Student Learning Outcomes <i>In order to measure the success of the DMin curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the DMin outcomes.</i>		Rubric ➤ Strong ➤ Moderate ➤ Minimal ➤ None	Mini-Justification
Biblical/Theological Foundations:	Significant knowledge of biblical and theological foundations for pastoral ministry. (This includes interaction with Biblical texts, as well as awareness of Reformed Theology.)	Strong	Interaction with the Scriptures, Old and New Testament texts, with a focus on Jesus in the Gospels
Historical/Contemporary Practices:	Significant knowledge of historical and contemporary practices of pastoral ministry.	Moderate / Strong	Significant readings relating to past and current experts in historical and modern practical discipleship
Integration:	Ability to reflect upon and integrate theology and practice, as well as implementation in a contemporary pastoral setting.	Strong	Course integrates theology, bible, and discipleship in relevant application of personal and church ministry
Sanctification:	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids in the student's sanctification.	Strong	Study of the Trinity's "with-ness" and how their grace is used to make disciples and bring them to maturity in Christ