
The mission of Genesis is to prepare humble hearts to begin again. Our vision is to empower our graduates to fulfill God-sized dreams according to his purpose.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An examination of the principles, methods, and systems of discipleship for effective ministry within a local church context. The course is designed to foster spiritual growth and to ignite disciple-making strategies, equipping students to mentor others.

I. Prerequisites

None

II. Measurable Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:

- Quote from memory Deuteronomy 6:5-9;
- List and explain the five shifts churches must make in their discipleship ministries;
- Determine the effectiveness of a church's discipleship ministry;
- Differentiate between common approaches to making disciples;
- Explain the problems leaders face in identifying potential leaders within their churches;
- Describe the four natural developmental stages of Jesus' discipleship methodology;
- Justify needed changes in a church's discipleship ministry;
- Design a program that helps churches make disciples who make disciples.

III. Required Resources

Books

Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *The Cost of Discipleship*. New York, NY: Touchstone, 1995.

Putman, Jim and Bobby Harrington with Robert E. Coleman. *Discipleshift*:

Five Steps That Help Your Church to Make Disciples Who Make Disciples.
Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2013.

IV. Recommended Resources

Ogden, Greg. *Discipleship Essentials: A Guide to Building Your Life in Christ.* Downer Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2018.

Rogers, Adrian and Steve Rogers. *What Every Christian Ought to Know.* Nashville: B&H, 2000.

V. Course Requirements and Assignments

A. Scripture Memorization

You will be memorizing Deuteronomy 6:5-9 in this course. God's Word is central to the life of every Christian, guiding and directing decisions, behaviors, values, and vision. Therefore, Genesis requires learners to memorize Scripture throughout their degree programs. Invest time everyday to hide God's Word in your heart.

B. Learning Activities

You are required to respond to three foundational knowledge questions and two practical application questions. While there is no word-length requirement, each response must thoroughly answer the questions using material from the module's reading assignments. Your answers will be graded using the "Scoring Rubric."

C. Book Critique

You will submit a critical evaluation of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's *The Cost of Discipleship* or any book from the recommended resources. The Book Critique, which is due at the end of Module 3, must be a minimum of 1000 words and must conform to MLA standards. See "How to Write Book Critiques" in the *Genesis Writer's Manual* for additional help.

D. Portfolio Project:

Each master's course at Genesis College & Seminary requires students to create a project that contributes to his or her Ministry Portfolio. A Ministry Portfolio is a usable, functioning body of work which demonstrates a student's leadership skills, knowledge, and abilities.

In this course, you will create a disciple-making plan that can be used in a new church. You will keep your finished product in your Ministry Portfolio, demonstrating your ability to create and implement a disciple-making plan for missional communities.

Scenario:

You have started a new church in your home, workplace, or community. Your church consists of 12 people. Your church plant, known as a missional community, is an intentionally small church (up to 20 people) with the goal of starting another missional community when attendance surpasses 20 people. Your goal is to eventually oversee a network of missional communities. Before you can deploy leaders to launch a second missional community, you realize that you must first implement a discipleship program to develop and equip these leaders.

Applying the knowledge you gained from Putnam and Harrington's *Discipleshift*, create a disciple-making plan that addresses six key areas. Remember, the church is in a community that you are currently familiar with.

Part 1: Your Missional Community (complete in Module 1)

1. What are the basic demographics of those in your mission field? Who will you be trying to reach? (i.e. if your work is in a corporate setting, describe the people you work with; if you are incarcerated, describe the inmate population.)
2. Write a mission statement. Use the discussion on p. 32 in your text to inform your statement.
3. Give your church a name.

Part 2: Creating a Discipleship Path for All (complete in Module 2)

How will you identify what discipleship stage people are in and disciple them? (Write a 1-2 paragraph description of your plan to disciple people in each of the five stages of discipleship.)

Part 3: Creating a Leadership Path for Potential Church Planters
(complete in Module 3)

Every disciple-making pastor is an equipper. One of these roles is to develop leaders. In 2-3 paragraphs, explain how you will fulfill this role. (see pp. 123-126)

Part 4: Equipping All to Follow Jesus' Method of Discipleship
(complete in Module 4)

Explain how you will teach the SCMD Methodology to the leaders who will be deployed to plant churches. Write 2-3 paragraphs on each method.

Part 5: Meeting in Small Groups (complete in Module 5)

Your missional community is basically a small group, but it is vital to have even smaller groups of people (e.g. 3-5) meet during the week to cultivate relationships. Describe how you will use small groups to shepherd others, teach them, and facilitate authenticity and accountability (minimum of 3 paragraphs).

Part 6: Evaluation (complete in Module 6)

How will you measure the success of your discipleship ministry (minimum of 3 paragraphs)?

Your completed project should be a cohesive manual for cultivating discipleship in missional communities. Make sure the manual has a nice flow to it. When you're finished you may want to do an overall edit keeping this in mind.

E. Final Exam

The Final Exam consists of material from the module presentations and assigned reading. The purpose of the exam is to measure your knowledge of course material.

A Final Exam Review is presented in Module 6 to help prepare you for the test. The exam will be administered after all 6 modules have been completed.

Remember: You will be required to write out your Scripture Memory verses on the Final Exam.