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Cottonwood Creek Ministry Academy Discipleship Syllabus

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Cottonwood Creek Ministry Academy
Certificate Syllabus

Description

The Ministry Academy at Cottonwood Creek Church's one-year training program is designed to "equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ" (Ephesians 4:12). Each student will have the opportunity to learn who God is through His Word so that the body of Christ may be strengthened.

Goal

Our desire at the Ministry Academy is to bridge the gap between seminary and the local church by providing theological training in the context of the local body of Christ. By teaching theology through each book of the Bible, we hope that each student will apply these truths in ministry all around the church. Through large group teaching, small group discussion, reading, writing, and Saturday seminars each student will:

- Read through and know the whole story of Scripture.
- Gain an understanding of both the purpose and practice of Christian theology.
- Be a closer follower of Jesus Christ.
- Be transformed by God's call on their lives to know Him and be obedient to Him.
- Learn how to communicate the Bible and theology.
- Learn God's heart for and respond to the Great Commission.
- Be commissioned to serve the church well.

Cost

\$150/semester (\$300 for the year)

The cost covers all of the books for the discipleship course, a Study Bible, honorariums for guest speakers, and each Saturday seminar. Contact us if you need financial assistance.

Requirements

ATTENDANCE

Due to the nature of the program, attendance is required. A student is permitted up to three absences in each semester (these cannot be used for a seminar). Each lecture will be recorded for the purpose of making up or revisiting any of the content discussed.

SEMINARS

Once each semester there will be a Saturday seminar (8a-5p). The seminars will include a special guest lecturer (academically qualified) in a specific and specialized field pertinent to the semesters focus. Attendance is mandatory for each seminar. Lunch and snacks will be provided for all students.

DISCUSSION & PARTICIPATION

Each student is required to actively engage in the subject matter through discussions, group assignments and exercises. Each student will also have opportunities during class time to process the week's content through theological discussion with their peers.

SERVICE

Each student must put their knowledge to action by serving in the local church. There are a lot of ways to do this! Feel free to ask if you need ideas for how to serve. An honor statement will be given at the end of each semester affirming 18 hours of service throughout each semester.

In addition to continual service, each student is *highly* encouraged to go on one of Cottonwood Creek's mission trips. For information on those trips, go to:

<http://cottonwoodcreek.org/missions/short-term-trips/>

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Each student will memorize a selection of verses/passages over the course of the program and the student will be held accountable for their memorization by their due date.

DISCIPLESHIP

There is an expectation for each student to be in the process of walking with another believer in a discipleship role. This means that what a student is learning is not to simply gain knowledge, but it is for the purpose of living out, sharing and teaching these biblical truths.

READING

In addition to Bible reading, each student will be asked to read two books each semester (4 books total). If there is a student who has already read any of these books, we will offer alternative resources. In addition to these texts, the student will be required to read any articles or further reading given.

These books will be provided for you at the beginning of the course and covered in your tuition price.

Assignments

AFFIRMATION OF READING

Each student will be asked to affirm that below:

Fall

Bartholomew, Craig G., and Michael W. Goheen. *The Drama of Scripture: Finding Our Place in the Biblical Story*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2004. (176)

Whitney, Donald S. *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 1991. (266)

Spring

Packer, J.I. *Knowing God*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1973. (286)

Bridges, Jerry. *The Pursuit of Holiness*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 1978, 1996, 2006. (159)

PROJECTS

Each student will complete one project each semester:

Fall: The Story of Scripture

Each student will write (500-800 words) and share (no notes or reading!) a summary of the whole story of Scripture, with Scripture references throughout. This can be written in paragraph form or bulleted and will be shared in their cohorts.

Spring: Gospel Presentation

Each student will write (500-800 words) and share (no notes or reading!) an original Gospel Presentation that will include a minimum of four Scripture passages. This can be written in paragraph form or bulleted and will be shared in their cohorts.

In addition to these assignments, there may be a collection of classroom exercises that will be completed through a student's cohort and during class time. These will be assigned over the course of the semester.

Due Dates

All assignments will be submitted through our Ministry Academy platform.

FALL

All assignments for the Fall Semester are due on 12/15/19 by 11:59p. These include:

- Fall Project: The Story of Scripture
- Affirmation of Reading Signed Statement: *Spiritual Disciplines & The Drama of Scripture*
- Fall Service Hour Affirmation

SPRING

All assignments for the Spring Semester are due 5/17/19 by 11:59p. These include:

- Spring Project: Gospel Presentation
- Affirmation of Reading Signed Statement: *Knowing God & The Pursuit of Holiness*
- Spring Service Hour Affirmation

Schedule:

Sunday afternoons from 4:00p – 6:00p

Fall Semester Schedule:

- August 18th
 - Introduction to the Program
 - Defining Terms: Theology, Discipleship, Ministry, Worship
- August 25th
 - Reading, Studying and Understanding the Bible
 - The Bible as Canon
- September 1st
 - Approaching the Old Testament
 - Creator and Creation
- September 8th
 - Creator and Creation (Continued)
 - The Image of God and The First Temple
- September 15th
 - The Fall and the Effects of the Fall
- September 22nd
 - Theology of Sin, Angels, Demons and Satan
 - The Beginnings of the Nation of Israel
 - Abrahamic Covenant
- September 29th
 - The Formation of Israel
 - The Call of Moses and the Plagues on Egypt
- October 6th
 - The Exodus and the Passover
 - The 10 Commandments and the Mosaic Covenant
- October 13th
 - The Law, the Tabernacle and the Sacrificial System
- October 20th
 - The Remainder of the Pentateuch
- October 27th
 - The History of Israel: Conquest and Judges

- November 3rd
 - The History of Israel: Remnant and Monarchy
 - Davidic Covenant
- November 10th
 - The History of Israel: The Split, Decline, and Defeat
- November 17th
 - Understanding the Messages of the Major Prophets
- November 24th – OFF (THANKSGIVING)
- December 1st
 - Understanding the Messages of the Minor Prophets
- December 8th
 - Learning Wisdom and Worship: The Writings
- December 15th
 - FLEX - The Coming Messiah, The Promise of the New Covenant
 - Christmas Potluck!

CHRISTMAS BREAK – No class December 22nd or December 29th

Spring Semester Schedule:

- January 5th
 - The Context of the New Testament
 - Approaching the New Testament
- January 12th
 - The Birth of Christ: Jesus as God and Man
- January 19th
 - The Message of Christ: The Kingdom of God
- January 26th
 - The Life and Ministry of Christ: From Baptism to Resurrection
- February 2nd
 - The Work of Christ: Atonement
- February 9th
 - The Work of Christ: Resurrection and Ascension
- February 16th
 - The Work of the Holy Spirit and Salvation (pt. 1)
- February 23rd
 - The Work of the Holy Spirit and Salvation (pt. 2)
- March 1st
 - The Work of the Holy Spirit and Sanctification
- March 8th – OFF (SPRING BREAK)
- March 15th
 - The Early Church and the Evangelistic Mission
- March 22nd
 - The Nature of the Church
- March 29th
 - The Practice of the Church
- April 5th
 - Learning to Read the Letters
- April 12th – OFF (EASTER)

- April 19th
 - Studying the Bible Workshop
- April 26th
 - Studying the Last Things: Eschatology (pt. 1)
- May 3rd
 - Studying the Last Things: Eschatology (pt. 2)
- May 10th – OFF (MOTHER’S DAY)
- May 17th
 - Teaching: So Now What?
 - Graduation Dinner with your family!

Cottonwood Creek Ministry Academy

Student Expectations for Discipleship Path

Attendance:

- Classes begin on August 18, 2019 and will take place every Sunday afternoon from 4:00-6:00 pm from August 2019 through May 2020, with the potential for a summer mission trip.
- Students are expected to attend all class sessions unless hindered by illness or emergency. In order to complete the program and receive certification, students are permitted 3 absences a semester and must attend all Saturday seminars.
- The Academy will not meet on major holidays (see syllabus for dates) to allow students to spend time with their families.
- All class sessions will be recorded so that absent students have the opportunity to make up or revisit content.

Workload:

- In addition to attending Sunday class sessions, students will be expected to complete reading assignments and two projects as part of their course work.
- On average, discipleship students will be expected to read 4 books (2 books per semester) totaling to about 440 pages per semester, 887 pages total.
- Additional details about specific course assignments, reading, etc. will be available in the course syllabus.

Service Requirements:

- Service is a crucial part of the Ministry Academy's course of study. Students will be expected to complete 18 service hours a semester, for a total of 36 hours throughout the program. This is in addition to class time on Sunday afternoons.

Mission Trip:

- While not required, students are highly encouraged to take a mission trip through Cottonwood Creek Church during the summer of 2020.

Interested in Seminary Credit?

In addition to the discipleship/certificate path of the Ministry Academy, our program offers an opportunity for seminary level credit. Everything required in the discipleship path is expected to be fulfilled in the seminary path. While there is a separate syllabus for the seminary path, here are some of the additional expectations:

Cottonwood Creek Ministry Academy Student Expectations for Seminary Path

Attendance:

- Students are expected to attend all class sessions unless hindered by illness or emergency. In order to complete the program and receive certification, students can only miss 2 classes per semester, and **MUST** attend the Saturday seminar in full.
- Students who do not meet all of the attendance requirements **WILL NOT** be eligible for transfer credit into a partner school.

Registration:

- At the beginning of the course, students in the seminary path will indicate at the start of the MA which courses they wish to complete. They can pursue the remaining MA course offerings at the disciple level if desired.

Workload:

- In addition to attending Sunday class sessions, students will be expected to complete reading assignments and writing projects as part of their course work. The workload of each course is equivalent to a 3 hour of a Master's level class.
- **On average, students will be expected to complete about 900 pages of assigned reading and about 14 pages of writing assignments for every 3 hour course in which they are enrolled.**
- Students who do not meet all of the workload requirements **WILL NOT** be eligible for transfer credit into a partner school.

Service Requirements:

- Service is a crucial part of the Ministry Academy's course of study. Students will be expected to complete 18 service hours a semester, for a total of 36 hours during the time in the program. This is in addition to class time on Sunday afternoons.
- Students who do not meet all of the service requirements **WILL NOT** be eligible for transfer credit into a partner school.

Mission Trip:

- As part of their course of study, students who are seeking the Missions course credit will take a mission trip through Cottonwood Creek Church during the summer of 2019.
- Students who do not complete the mission trip requirement **WILL NOT** be eligible for transfer credit for the Missions course into a partner school.

Transfer Credit:

Upon successful completion of the Seminary Path of the Cottonwood Creek Ministry Academy (MA), students will be given a certificate of completion which they can use in order to gain transfer credit into one of our partner institutions. Students should be aware of the following details:

- In order to gain transfer credit, students must first apply and be accepted to the school from whom they wish to receive credit. Application to each partner school will follow that school's typical admittance procedures – the MA will have no involvement in the student's application or acceptance into partner institutions for the purpose of transfer credit.
- In most academic institutions, transfer credit is not re-transferable. If your intention is to transfer credit from MA to school A, with the eventual goal of moving from school A to school B, your MA credits may not transfer. Students will need to discuss any potential credit transfer issues with MA administration and with the Registrar of the school of their choice.
- Transfer credit opportunities from MA to seminaries or other schools only exist within the scope of MA's partnership with each of these institutions. Students should not request transfer credit from a non-partner institution. If you would like to recommend an additional academic partner for MA, please contact MA leadership.

For specific questions or if you'd like to see a sample syllabus for the seminary path, please email: beau.landiers@cottonwoodcreek.org