



Disciple Making through Small Group Ministry DISC5371

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Church Ministry Division
Summer 2021 - Online

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*New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants
to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.*

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to engage students in a comprehensive look at strategies, principles, aims, and procedures that facilitate qualitative and quantitative growth of the church (disciple making) through a small group ministry. Students will develop skills in assessing, planning, organizing, leading, and evaluation the ministry of a church which utilizes a small group strategy.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Understand biblical concepts for administration of the small groups in the local church and analyze these administrative practices in terms of a biblical worldview.
2. Students will demonstrate administrative principles and practices to the planning, organizing, leading, and evaluating the small group ministries of the local church.
3. Value the importance of the discipleship mandate given to all believers in Scripture.

Required Textbooks

The following texts and resources are required reading for class discussions and are to be read in their entirety unless otherwise specified.

Required Texts

Braddy, Ken. *Breathing Life into Sunday School: 12 Essentials to Revive your Most Important Ministry*. Nashville, TN: Lifeway Resources. 2019.

Gladen, Steve. *Small Groups with Purpose: How to Create Healthy Communities*. Grand Rapids, MN: Baker Books, 2013.

Search, Bill. *The Essential Guide for Small Group Leaders*. Carol Stream, IL: Christianity Today. 2017.

Stetzer, Ed and Eric Geiger. *Transformational Groups: Creating a Scorecard For Groups*. Nashville, TN: B & H Books. 2014.

Recommended Texts

- Boren, Scott. *Making Cell Groups Work: Navigating the Transformation to a Cell Based Church*. Houston, TX: Touch Outreach Ministries. 2002.
- Cole, Neil, *Cultivating a Life for God: Multiplying Disciples Through Life Transformation Groups*. Long Beach, CA: CMA Resources. 2014.
- Comisky, Joel. *2000 Years of Small Groups: A History of Cell Ministry in the Church*. Moreno Valley, CA: CCS Publishing. 2015.
- Dodson, Jonathan K. *Gospel Centered Discipleship*. Wheaton, Ill: Crossway, 2012.
- Early, David and Rod Dempsey. *Disciplemaking Is: How to Live the Great Commission with Passion and Confidence*. Nashville, TN: B & H Academic, 2013.
- Ogden, Greg. *Transforming Discipleship*. Downers Grove, Ill: InterVarsity Press, 2003.
- Parr, Steve. *Sunday School that Really Works: A Strategy for Connecting Congregations to Communities*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publishers, 2010.
- Spader, Dann. *4 Chair Discipling: Growing a Movement of Disciple-Makers*. Chicago, Ill: Moody Publishers, 2014.
- Taylor, Allan. *Sunday School in HD*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 2009.

Course Teaching Methodology

This course will utilize video lecture, textbook reading, online group discussion, and assignments to assess knowledge, analysis, and synthesis of the course material. The following outline presents the course's units framed around Flake's Formula.

Unit 1: Introductions

Unit 2: Overview of Discipleship

Know the Possibilities

Unit 3: Sunday School and Small Groups

Enlarge the Organization

Unit 4: Open or Closed Small Groups

Unit 5: Starting New Groups

Enlist and Train Workers

Unit 6: Leadership Positions and Roles

Unit 7: Training Models for Leaders/Workers

Provide the Space

Unit 8: Evaluating & Utilizing Space

Go After the People

Unit 9: Evangelism through Small Groups

Unit 10: Effective Guest Follow Up Practices

Best Small Group Practices

Unit 11: Creating & Managing Group Experiences

Teaching & Curriculum

Unit 12: Effective Bible Teaching & Curriculum Mapping

Strategic Planning

Unit 13: Christian Education, Discipleship, & Spiritual Formation

Unit 14: Disciple-making in Small Groups Review: Philosophy, Theology, & Practice

Course Requirements

Assignment 1. Annotated Bibliographies – 10% (5% each)

Create a three to four paragraph single-spaced annotation for two designated texts to meet the reading requirement. Provide the bibliographic citation, the three-four paragraphs, and the page number(s) referenced at the end of the citation. Each annotation, in the last paragraph, should contain your appraisal and considerations on the text not just a synopsis of the text. Following the annotation, indicate whether you read the text in its entirety. You may use parenthetical references.

- *Transformational Groups* – **June 6th**
- *Small Groups with a Purpose* – **June 13th**

Assignment 2. Book Critique – 14% (Due June 27th)

Students will be assigned the required reading text, *Breathing Life into Sunday School*. Students will provide a written critique and present findings in class. On the assigned day, turn in a 4-page type-written report on the assigned book. The book review should include the following two components: 1) A two page (double spaced) **content summary** and 2) A two-page (single spaced) **reflection summary** of significant ideas (direct quotes or general ideas) from the book. The following should be included with each significant idea: a) the book page number; b) one of the three identified categories below and c) brief reflective personalized comments. A double space between each entry of the list is expected. More guidelines will be provided in class.

1. **AGREEMENT** – Thoughts with which you are in firm agreement; things that make you say “Yes!” or items that inspire you to action in your life and move your spirit.
2. **DISAGREEMENT** – Thoughts in which you find dissonance; areas with which you might disagree.
3. **MORE THOUGHT** – Areas that you want to spend more time thinking about; things that make you wonder; items on which you are not sure what your stance is.

Assignment 3. Biblical Research Paper – 30% (Due July 11th)

Create a clear and concise (7-8 page) research paper on small group disciple-making principles derived from Scripture. The paper will consist of a synthesis and analysis of the pertinent literature considering the exegetical themes of discipleship throughout the Bible. Students should discern five to seven fundamental principles for integration in a local church team ministry setting. Students will be prepared to report their research findings to class via PowerPoint presentation. Students’ presentation will be included in the grading of this paper. **Pay close attention to the Assignment Formatting given below and the NOBTS Style Manual.**

<https://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf>

Assignment Formatting

- Type this assignment according to the NOBTS Style Guide/Turabian format
- All papers must be written in third person and double-spaced
- Use 12-point Times New Roman font
- Use the same number of references as assigned pages
- Use correct spelling and grammar
- Provide appropriate title page, contents page, footnotes, bibliography, and pagination

Assignment 4. Case Study PPT- 30% (Due December 3rd; Presentations made July 30th)

Using the fundamental principles discovered in the **Biblical Research Paper** and the best practices covered in the literature and class presentations, describe a local small group ministry, assess the strengths and weaknesses, and make recommendations for improvements.

- 1. Description of Existing Small Group Ministry (5-6 slides)**
- 2. Assessment of Strengths and Challenges (5-6 slides)**
- 3. Recommendations for Improvements (5-6 slides)**

The Small Group Ministry case study should include diagrams, charts, and bullet points. Envision your presentation being made to a group of church ministry leaders/workers.

Assignment 5. Discussion Board Participation – 16% (2% each week)

Weekly participation in the online course’s discussion boards on disciple-making in small groups will be key in the learning process of the course material. Details of how and when posts need to be submitted each week will be shared in BlackBoard. Based on class size multiple of discussion board threads may be created and the class placed in discussion board groups to help engage as much conversation as possible on the various aspects of using small groups to make disciples.

Netiquette: Appropriate Online Behavior: Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online on Discussion Boards or whenever interaction occurs through web, digital, or other electronic medium. The student is expected to interact with other students in a fashion that will promote learning and respect for the opinions of others in the course. A spirit of Christian charity is always expected in the online environment.

Evaluation of Grade

Annotated Bibliographies	10% (5% each)
Book Critique	14%
Biblical Research Paper	30%
Case Study PPT	30%
Discussion Board Participation	<u>16%</u> (2% each week)
	100%

Grading Scale: Your final grade will be based on your total accumulation of points as indicated under the *Learning Activities and Assessments* section of this syllabus according to the grading scale.

A: 93-100 B: 85-92 C: 77-84 D: 70-76 F: 69 and below

Late Assignments: Assignments not submitted *on the due dates* are considered late and will be automatically penalized 10% for each date late including weekends. Late assignments will not be accepted one week beyond the original due date, no exceptions. No grades of Incomplete will be issued for this course. If a late assignment is not received, a grade of “F” is automatically earned for the course.

Technical Assistance

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System NOBTS.Blackboard.com.
3. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

[Other items may be included, such as: expectations for reading assignments, policy on late assignments, academic honesty, classroom demeanor, extra credit]

Help for Writing Papers at “The Write Stuff”

NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help in becoming a better writer.

Plagiarism on Written Assignments

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

Course Schedule (Subject to Change)

Unit #	Unit Title	Date
1	Introduction	5/31-6/6
2	Overview of Discipleship	5/31-6/6
	<i>Transformational Groups Annotated Bibliography Due</i>	June 6
3	Sunday School & Small Groups	6/7-6/13
4	Open or Closed Small Groups	6/7-6-13
	<i>Small Groups with a Purpose Annotated Bibliography Due</i>	June 13
5	Starting New Groups	6/14-6/20
6	Leadership Positions & Roles	6/14-6/20
7	Training Models for Leaders/Workers	6/21-6/27
8	Evaluating & Utilizing Space	6/21-6/27
	Book Critique Due	June 27
9	Evangelism through Small Groups	6/28-7/4
10	Effective Guest Follow-Up Practices	7/5-7/11
11	Creating & Managing Group Experiences	7/5-7/11
	Biblical Research Paper Due	July 11
12	Effective Bible Teaching & Curriculum Mapping	7/12-7/18

13	Christian Education, Discipleship, & Spiritual Formation	7/19-7/25
14	Disciple-making in Small Groups Review: Philosophy, Theology, & Practice	7/26-7/30
	Case Study PowerPoint Due	July 30

Selected Bibliography

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- Arnold, Jeffrey. *Seven Tools for Building Effective Groups*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 1997.
- _____. *The Big Book of Small Groups*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1994.
- Barrett, Lois. *Building the House Church*. Kitchener: Herald, 1986.
- Coleman, Lyman. *Small Group Training Manual*. Littleton, CO: Serendipity, 1991.
- Coleman, Robert Emerson. *The Great Commission Lifestyle: Conforming Your Life to Kingdom Priorities*. Grand Rapids: F.H. Revell, 1992.
- Donahue, Bill. *Leading Life-Changing Small Groups*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2002
- Edgemon, Roy T. & Steve Williams. *Leading Discipleship in a Church: 1997-98*. Nashville: Baptist Sunday School Board, 1996.
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- Estep, James R., Michael J. Anthony, and Gregg R. Allison. *A Theology for Christian Education*. Nashville: B & H Publishing Group, 2008
- Galloway, Dale. *20/20 Vision: How to Create a Successful Church With Lay Pastors and Cell Groups*. Portland, OR: Foundations of Hope, 1986.
- Getz, Gene A. and Charles R. Swindoll. *The Walk: Growing into the Fullness of Christ*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 2000.
- Gorman, Julie A. *Community That is Christian: A Handbook on Small Groups*. Wheaton: Victor, 1993.
- Hadaway, C. Kirk, Stuart A. Wright, and Francis M. DuBose. *Home Cell Groups and House Churches*. Nashville: Broadman, 1987.
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- Hemphill, Ken. *Revitalizing the Sunday Morning Dinosaur*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 1996.
- _____ and Bill Taylor. *Ten Best Practices To Make Your Sunday School Work*. Nashville: LifeWay, 2001.
- Hemphill, Ken, and R. Wayne Jones. *Growing an Evangelistic Sunday School*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1989.
- Icenogle, Gareth Weldom. *Biblical Foundation for Small Group Ministry*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1994.

- Long, Jimmy. *Small Group Leaders' Handbook: The Next Generation*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1995.
- Mack, Michael C. *The Synergy Church: A Strategy for Integrating Small Groups and Sunday School*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1996.
- Mallory, Sue. *The Equipping Church: Serving Together to Transform Lives*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2001.
- Malphurs, Aubrey. *Advanced Strategic Planning: A New Model for Church and Ministry Leaders*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Books, 1999.
- Mancini, Will. *Church Unique: How Missional Leaders Cast Vision, Capture Culture, and Create Movement*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2008
- McBride, Neal F. *How To Build A Small Groups Ministry*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 1995.
- McIntosh, Gary. *Make Room for the Boom...or Bust: Six Models for Reaching Three Generations*. Tarrytown, NY: Revell, 1997.
- Mims, Gene. *Kingdom Principles for Church Growth* (rev.). Nashville: LifeWay, 2001.
- Poling, Wayne, ed. *Sunday School Manual*. Nashville: LifeWay Press, 2009.
- Rhodes, David. *Cell Church or Traditional?: Reflections on the Church*. Cambridge: Grove, 1996.
- Southern, Richard and Robert Norton. *Cracking Your Congregation's Code*. San Francisco Jossey-Bass, 2001.
- Stanley, Andy and Ed Young. *Can We Do That: 24 Innovative Practices that Will Change the Way You Do Church*. Howard Publishing, 2002.
- Ver Straten, Charles A. *A Caring Church: Through Shepherding Ministries*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1988.
- Warren, Rick. *The Purpose-Driven Church: Growth without Compromising Your Message and Mission*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995.
- Welch, Bobby H. *Evangelism Through Sunday School: A Journey of Faith*. Nashville: LifeWay, 1997.
- White, James Emery. *Rethinking the Church: A Challenge to Creative Redesign in an Age of Transition*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1997.