

DISC5371 Disciple Making Through Small Group Ministry

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Church Ministry Division Spring 2023 Mentoring

Professor:

Dr. Hal Stewart Ministry-Based Professor of Discipleship hstewart@nobts.edu

Grader:

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Mission Statement

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 of 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.

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

Hartwig, Ryan T., Courtney W. Davis and Jason A. Sniff. *Leading Small Groups that Thrive:* Five Shifts to Take Your Group to the Next Level. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2020.

McNabb, Bob. Spiritual Multiplication in the Real World: Why Some Disciple-makers Reproduce and Others Fail. Middletown, DE: Multiplication Press, 2014. (ISBN 978-1-942374-00-8)

Wilder, Jim and Michel Hendricks. *The Other Half of the Church: Christian Community, Brain Science, and Overcoming Spiritual Stagnation*. Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 2020 (ISBN 978-0-8024-1963-7)

Suggested Texts

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

Search, Bill and Amy Jackson. *The Essential Guide for Small Groups*. Carol Stream, IL: Christianity Today International, 2017.

Course Teaching Methodology

The course will involve the following methodologies: a lecture via online videos, mentoring, discussion board threads, and interactive discovery-learning format.

Course Requirements

All assignments must be submitted electronically in Canvas. Unless otherwise noted, all assignments are due before midnight on the due date. See Course Schedule (last page) for due dates.

1. Book Critiques (cognitive) – 10 pts Due: Feb. 13th and March 20th

Write a 3-page type-written double-spaced report on <u>two</u> of the textbooks). The book review should include the following two components: 1) A one-page **content summary** 2) A two-page **reflection summary** of significant ideas (direct quotes or general ideas) from the book that you AGREE, DISAGREE, or need MORE THROUGHT on. 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 personal comments.

- 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.
- DISAGREEMENT Thoughts in which you find dissonance; areas with which you might disagree.
- 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.

Spiritual Multiplication – Feb. 13th
The Other Half of the Church– March 20th

2. Exegetical Research Paper (affective) – 25 pts + 5 pts = 30 pts total Due: April 17th You will create a clear and concise <u>8-page</u> critical reflection paper (body) on a Small Group leadership and management necessity for local church ministry (20 pts). Your paper will consist of a synthesis and analysis of the pertinent literature as well as a proposal for the integration of disciple making concepts to this specific local church ministry context. (*Always begin a paper with the theological basis before entering into the philosophical concerns.*) Students should use a minimum of <u>eight sources</u> for this assignment. The paper should be written using Turabian formatting. A grading rubic is found in the online shell. You will provide your research findings to the teacher via Powerpoint presentation. Your presentation will be included in the grading of this assignment (5 pts).

The following are reflection papers to choose from:

- The Purpose and Mission of a Small Groups
- How to Hire and Fire Small Group Leaders
- How to Recruit New Teachers for Every Age Group in the Church
- Creating and Communicating Expectations and Job Descriptions for Teacher and Leaders of Small Groups
- How to Assimilate People from the Community into the Small Group
- Choosing the Best Curriculum for Age-Graded Small Groups
- Creating and Training a Staff Team that Leads Small Groups
- Creating a Church-wide Space Plan for Small Group Growth
- The Model Small Group Teacher
- The Small Group Pastor's Leadership Attributes
- Principles and Methods of Missional Small Group Classes
- Principles and Merthods of Small Groups that Multiply
- The Purpose and Function of Discipleship Making Groups
- The Role and Design of Spiritual Mentoring in the Church Life

Assignment Formatting for the Exegetical Research Paper

Type this assignment according to 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

Use proper pagination

Include your name on the cover page

Staple assignments together as necessary or as required (no report covers please)

Write the *full* assignment

3. Personal Report of Disciple-Making through Small Groups (psychomotor) – 30 pts. Due: May 3^{rd}

You will develop a Personal Statement of Disciple-Making through Small Groups for **adults** in the local church. You should identify the biblical basis for several vital components of and the organization and development of the small groups. Consideration should be given to both an individual's personal spiritual formation as well as the role of others in a small group setting. This personal philosophy statement will be guided by the following aspects:

- 1. Identify the biblical basis for the following aspects of disciple-making in small groups.
 - a. Role of other believers the Body
 - b. Use of God's word Curriculum
 - c. Work of the Holy Spirit Spiritual Formation
 - d. The Glory and Worship of God Goal and purpose
 - e. Missions and Ministry deployment evidences of growth
 - f. The role of spiritual disciplines (Bible intake, scripture memory, prayer, etc.)
 - g. The levels or depths of individual spiritual maturity (pre-conversion to

maturity)

- 2. Organization and development of the small groups
 - a. Leadership development or mentoring
 - b. Birth and multiplication launches of groups
 - c. Weekly schedule and meeting time and length
 - d. New believers assimilation and spiritual assessment
 - e. Believers only or non-believers in groups
 - f. Child-care and student participation in the groups
 - g. Role of video and technology in teaching and accountability
 - h. Role of Online groups with distance accountability.

The Personal Statement of Disciple-Making should be a minimum of **5-6 pages in length**, single-spaced, and organized by bullets and numbers in paragraph style. Other aspects may be considered in the development of the statement.

4. Mentoring Experience and Online Engagement – 30 points Due: Ongoing/Weekly

The student is required to meet with their assigned mentor who can challenge the student spiritually, philosophically, and practically in Disciple Making Through Small Group Ministry. Additionally, the student is expected to engage online in an assigned Canvas shell with the professor and other mentoring students throughout the semester. The following components of the mentoring experience are required assignments:

- Online Mentorship Discussion Board (12 pts) The NOBTS professor will release online teaching units in the Canvas shell for required discussion board postings/dialogue by the students during the semester. The teaching units are designed to "bridge" the teaching units to the weekly mentor meeting. For this mentoring course, students are expected to post on minimum of 12 teaching units and engage in content.
- Mentor Meeting (12 pts) You will meet with your mentor each week for a minimum of one hour to discuss personal and ministry progress in the area of small groups for the local church based on the course teaching units. Students will engage in the mentoring relationship under the supervision of an approved NOBTS mentor for a minimum of 15 hours of meeting time during the semester. Mentorship hours may not include church worship, Bible study, and age-group weekly meetings. The student will meet for a minimum of an hour per week beginning the first week of the semester. The student will log/record the weekly meeting dates/times and have their mentor sign-off on the meetings. The mentoring experience log-sheet is submitted online at the end of the semester (May 3rd).
- Mentoring Reflection Papers (6 pts) A Mentoring Monthly Report will be completed by students for February, March and April. The completed report will be submitted and uploaded through Canvas by the last day of the month.
 - The first reflection paper will be the completed goals and covenant with the approved mentor (*due February 28th*).
 - The final two reflection papers should be a 1-page single space of reflection report based on your weekly mentor meeting, the online course content, and experiences during the week of ministry. (March 31st, April 30th)
 - These three reflection papers are a first-person synopsis of the mentoring experience on a month-by-month basis.

For the purposes of this course, a *positive attitude* and *participation* are defined as productive and interactive engagement with online threads and dialogues throughout a full course session. Students cannot participate effectively if you are **not engaged** in the online dialogues on the **WEEKLY** subject matter. Consequently, the student is expected to:

- Post answers, comments, and questions on the discussion board threads.
- Provide on-going biblical, philosophical, or social science research to support your assertions.
- Reflect on an idea presented in one of the textbooks and/or mentoring relationship.
- Relate an example or story that conveys an application to the thread based on the mentoring experience.

Evaluation of Grade

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

Exegetical Research Paper and Presentation	30%
Personal Statement of Disciple-Making through Small Groups	30%
Book Critiques	10%
Mentoring Experience	<u>30%</u>
	100%

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to engage regularly with course content through the learning management system and other course delivery methods. Students who fail to participate consistently in course activities may receive a grade of "F" for the course.

Technical Assistance

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

- 1. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/- Email for general technical questions/support requests.
- 2. <u>Selfserve@nobts.edu</u>- Email technical questions/support requests with the <u>Selfserve.nobts.edu</u> or <u>My.nobts.edu</u> site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, Faculty portal, etc.)
- 3. <u>Canvas@nobts.edu</u> Click on the "Help" button for technical questions/support requests regarding the NOBTS Canvas System. You can also email questions to Canvas.nobts.edu / nobts.instructure.com.
- 4. <u>Bluejeanshelpdesk@nobts.edu</u>- Email technical questions/support requests with Bluejeans and NOBTS Bluejeans classrooms (On and Off-Campus).
- 5. <u>TelephoneHelpDesk@nobts.edu</u>- Email technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Nextiva Phone system.
- 6. <u>504.816.8180</u> Call for any technical questions/support requests. (Currently available Mon-Thurs 7:00am-9:00pm & Fri 7:00-7:00pm Central Time).

Course Policies

Students are responsible for completing all reading assignments.

Please arrive on time.

Respect the professor and other members of the class.

Maintain confidentiality when someone shares personal information.

Participate in class and group discussions.

Professor's Policy on Late Assignments

All work is due on the assigned date and time in the syllabus. Assignments are due before midnight on the day they are due. Late assignments will be penalized an initial 10 percent penalty and one percent for each day after the due date. No assignments will be accepted more than two weeks after the original due date. Submit all assignments electronically on Canvas. Do not send files as attachments via email to the professor.

Professor's Availability and Assignment Feedback

The student may contact the professor at any time using the email address provided in the course syllabus. The professor will make every effort to return answers to emailed questions within a 24-hour period of time. Assignments requiring grading will be returned to the student within a reasonable period of time. Student feedback on graded assignments will be provided through the grading rubric located in the student's Canvas Grade Book. The student will find comments in the grading rubric, as well as on graded paper assignments. The student may also email the course grader with questions regarding grading.

Style and Formatting

A copy of the approved NOBTS Style Guide can be found in the course Canvas shell, or can be located online at the Writing Center's page on the seminary website at: https://www.nobts.edu/ resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf

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. A copy of the approved NOBTS Style Guide can be found in the course Canvas shell, or can be located online at the Writing Center's page on the seminary website at:

https://www.nobts.edu/_resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf

In addition, the website Grammarly (www.grammarly.com) will help you become a better writer. Eazypaper (www.eazypaper.com) will help you automatically format your sources.

Academic Honesty Policy

All graduate and undergraduate NOBTS students, whether on-campus, internet, or extension center students, are expected to adhere to the highest Christian standard of honesty and integrity when completing academic assignments for all courses in every delivery system format. The Bible provides our standard for academic integrity and honesty. This standard applies whether a student is taking tests, quizzes, exams, writing papers, completing Discussion Boards, or any other course requirement.

Plagiarism on Written Assignments

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Please be aware that plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. Refer to the NOBTS Student Handbook http://www.nobts.edu/_resources/pdf/studentservices/NOBTSHandbook.pdf where the definition, penalties and policies associated with plagiarism are clearly defined.

Academic Policies

Academic policies related to absences, grading scale, final examination schedules, and other topics can be found in the current online catalog: <u>New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Graduate Catalog.</u>

Grading Scale

Each students final grade will be based on your total accumulation of points as indicated under the Assignments and Evaluation Criteria section of this syllabus, according to the grading scale in the NOBTS catalog.

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

Policy for Graduating Seniors

Graduating seniors are responsible for alerting the professor of your intention to graduate. All of your assignments must be completed by noon (12:00pm) on the Wednesday prior to commencement exercises.

Special Needs

If you need an accommodation for any type of disability, please email me to discuss any modifications you may need.

Withdrawal from the Course

The administration has set deadlines for withdrawal. These dates and times are published on the academic calendar. Administration procedures must be followed. You are responsible to handle withdrawal requirements. A professor cannot issue a withdrawal. You must complete the proper paperwork to ensure you will not receive a final grade of "F" in the course if you choose not to engage in the online class once you are enrolled.

Hurricane/Severe Weather Evacuation

For up-to-date weather information stay tuned to:

- WBSN FM-89.1
- WWL Channel 4
- WWL AM-870
- www.nobts.edu

Mandatory Evacuation

Hurricane season lasts from June 1 to November 30. If the Mayor of New Orleans or the President of NOBTS recommends that you leave the city, then do so. If a mandatory evacuation is called, everyone except emergency personnel must leave. Staying on campus is not an option. See the *Student Handbook* for further information regarding hurricane preparedness, evacuation, and shelter.

Selected Bibliography

Anderson, Philip and Phoebe Anderson. The House Church. Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 1975.

Arnold, Jeffrey. Seven Tools for Building Effective Groups. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 1997.

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, MI: F.H. Revell, 1992.

Donahue, Bill. Leading Life-Changing Small Groups. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2002.

Duewel, Wesley L. Touch the World through Prayer. Grand Rapids, MI: F. Asbury, 1986.

Edgemon, Roy T. & Steve Williams. *Leading Discipleship in a Church: 1997-98*. Nashville, TN: Baptist Sunday School Board, 1996.

_____. Leading Discipleship in a Church. Nashville, TN: Baptist Sunday School Board, 1997.

Estep, James R., Michael J. Anthony, and Gregg R. Allison. *A Theology for Christian Education*. Nashville, TN: 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, TN: Broadman and Holman, 2000.

Gorman, Julie A. Community That is Christian: A Handbook on Small Groups. Wheaton, IL: Victor, 1993.

Hadaway, C. Kirk, Stuart A. Wright, and Francis M. DuBose. *Home Cell Groups and House Churches*. Nashville, TN: Broadman, 1987.

Hellelbein, Frances, Marshall Goldsmith, and Richard Beckhard, eds. *The Leader of the Future: New Visions, Strategies, and Practices for the Next Era*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1996.

Hemphill, Ken. *Revitalizing the Sunday Morning Dinosaur*. Nashville, TN: Broadman and Holman, 1996.

and Bill Taylor. *Ten Best Practices To Make Your Sunday School Work*. Nashville, TN: LifeWay, 2001.

Hemphill, Ken, and R. Wayne Jones. *Growing an Evangelistic Sunday School*. Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1989.

Icenogle, Gareth Weldom. *Biblical Foundation for Small Group Ministry*. Downers Grove, IL: 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,

MI: Baker, 1996.

Mallory, Sue. *The Equipping Church: Serving Together to Transform Lives*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2001.

and Brad Smith. *The Equipping Church Guidebook*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2001.

Malphurs, Aubrey. *Advanced Strategic Planning: A New Model for Church and Ministry Leaders*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1999.

_____. Developing a Vision for Ministry in the Twenty-first Century. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1992.

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, TN: LifeWay, 2001.

Poling, Wayne, ed. Sunday School Manual. Nashville, TN: LifeWay Press, 2009.

Rhodes, David. Cell Church or Traditional?: Reflections on the Church. Cambridge, MA: 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. New York: Howard Publishing, 2002.

Ver Straten, Charles A. A Caring Church: Through Shepherding Ministries. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1988.

Warren, Rick. *The Purpose-Driven Church: Growth without Compromising Your Message and Mission*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1995.

Welch, Bobby H. Evangelism Through Sunday School: A Journey of Faith. Nashville, TN: LifeWay, 1997.

White, James Emery. *Rethinking the Church: A Challenge to Creative Redesign in an Age of Transition*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1997.

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Course Schedule

The professor reserves the right to make changes to the schedule as needed You are responsible for all assigned readings. All readings may not be covered in class.

Date	Reading Due	Assignments Due		
Unit 1: Introduction to Disciple Making Through Small Group Ministry				
Jan. 17-22	Leading Small Groups that Thrive: Five Shifts to Take Your Group to the Next Level, Chapter 1	Discussion Board		
Unit 2: Disciple Making in the Local Church				
Jan. 23-29	Leading Small Groups that Thrive: Five Shifts to Take Your Group to the Next Level, Chapter 2	Discussion Board		
	Spiritual Multiplication in the Real World: Why Some Disciple-makers Reproduce and Others Fail, Chapters 1-3			
Unit 3: State of Disciple Making Groups				
Jan. 30-Feb. 5	Leading Small Groups that Thrive: Five Shifts to Take Your Group to the Next Level, Chapter 3	Discussion Board		
	Spiritual Multiplication in the Real World: Why Some Disciple-makers Reproduce and Others Fail, Chapters 4-5			
Unit 4: Disciple Making as a Basis for Small Groups				
Feb. 6-12	Leading Small Groups that Thrive: Five Shifts to Take Your Group to the Next Level, Chapter 4	Discussion Board		
	Spiritual Multiplication in the Real World: Why Some Disciple-makers Reproduce and Others Fail, Chapters 6-11	Book Critique #1 (Feb. 13 th)		
Unit 5: Open Groups				
Feb. 13-19	Leading Small Groups that Thrive: Five Shifts to Take Your Group to the Next Level, Chapter 5	Discussion Board		
	The Other Half of the Church: Christian Community, Brain Science, and Overcoming Spiritual Stagnation, Chapters 1-2			
Unit 6: Closed Groups				
Feb. 20-26	Leading Small Groups that Thrive: Five Shifts to Take Your Group to the Next Level, Chapter 6	Discussion Board		
	The Other Half of the Church: Christian Community, Brain Science, and Overcoming Spiritual Stagnation, Chapters 3-4	Reflection Paper #1 (Feb. 28 th)		
Unit 7: Strategy Development				
Feb. 27-Mar. 5	Leading Small Groups that Thrive: Five Shifts to Take Your Group to the Next Level, Chapter 7	Discussion Board		

	The Other Half of the Church: Christian Community, Brain Science, and Overcoming Spiritual Stagnation, Chapters 5-6			
Unit 8: Developing Leadership				
Mar. 6-12	Leading Small Groups that Thrive: Five Shifts to Take Your Group to the Next Level, Chapter 8	Discussion Board		
	The Other Half of the Church: Christian Community, Brain Science, and Overcoming Spiritual Stagnation, Chapters 7-8			
March 13-19 (Spring Break)				
Unit 9: Enlisting Leadership				
Mar. 20-26	Leading Small Groups that Thrive: Five Shifts to Take Your Group to the Next Level, Chapter 9	Discussion Board		
	The Other Half of the Church: Christian Community, Brain Science, and Overcoming Spiritual Stagnation, Appendices A-E	Book Critique #2 (March 20 th)		
Unit 10: Growing the Organization				
Mar. 27-Apr. 2	Leading Small Groups that Thrive: Five Shifts to Take Your	Discussion Board		
	Group to the Next Level, Chapter 10	Reflection Paper #2 (March 31st)		
Unit 11: Outreach	n Ministry in Small Groups			
Apr. 3-9	Leading Small Groups that Thrive: Five Shifts to Take Your Group to the Next Level, Chapter 11	Discussion Board		
Unit 12: Starting	Small Groups			
Apr. 10-16	Leading Small Groups that Thrive: Five Shifts to Take Your Group to the Next Level, Chapter 12	Discussion Board		
Unit 13: Choosing Curriculum				
Apr. 17-23	Leading Small Groups that Thrive: Five Shifts to Take Your Group to the Next Level, Appendix A	Discussion Board		
		Research Paper and Presentation (April 17 th)		
Unit 14: Quality	Small Group Standards			
Apr. 24-30	Leading Small Groups that Thrive: Five Shifts to Take Your	Discussion Board		
	Group to the Next Level, Appendix B, C	Reflection Paper #3 (April 30 th)		
		Personal Philosophy of Discipleship Paper (May 4 th)		
		Semester Mentoring Meetings Report (May 4 th)		