

Discipleship Course (Meets Monthly on Sundays 7-9pm)

Overview

This is an eleven session discipleship curriculum for men in the home group. The material in this curriculum has been assembled from a larger Leadership Development Course used at Covenant Life Church in Gaithersburg, MD.

The main texts for our study will be our bibles (English Standard Version preferred) and Bible Doctrine, by Wayne Grudem (Zondervan – 1999). You are required to have copies of both and bring them with you to class each time we meet. In addition, I will provide you will copies of other resources (e.g., articles, chapters from various books, sermon tapes, etc.) for assignments throughout the course.

Objective

To paraphrase A.W. Tozer in his book, *Knowledge of the Holy – What we believe about God is the most important thing about us*. This is so true, because what we believe about God (or what we don't believe about God) guides all that we do in this life. Our view of God has very practical implications on our lives as men – husbands, fathers, employees, church members, neighbors, friends, etc.

The main objective for this study is to establish a context where the men in our home group can grow together in a right understanding of God and His Word. Armed with a clearer understanding, my hope is that we will each grow in...

1. Our personal relationship to the Lord.
2. Our commitment to lead those entrusted to us.
3. Our commitment and dependence upon one another.

Commitment to the Group

- *My commitment.* By God's grace, I'll be prepared to lead the discussion for each meeting, having adequately studied the material. One of my highest priorities in leading home group this year will be to invest in the men participating in this study.
- *Your commitment.* These meetings are not mandatory, but my hope is that you will see their long-term value. For those who do participate, please do your best to maintain regular attendance and come prepared to participate in the discussion. This will require completing assignments in advance of the meeting and coming prepared to ask questions.
- *Our Shared-Commitment.* Discretion, humility, commitment to daily devotional life, transparency, commitment to accountability.

Session I

Introduction to Discipleship

I. Participant Commitment

- a. Regular Attendance
- b. Prepared for each discussion
- c. Regular devotional life
- d. Home Group participation
- e. Anything in the group discussion is open to encouragement, observation, and correction.

2. Introductions

It is critical that we learn to share our testimonies in a variety of situations. This requires us to shorten our stories to whatever length is appropriate. Please share a 3-minute version of your testimony and one interesting fact about you with the group.

3. Discussion Questions

a. Review Questions

- Define *systematic theology* and discuss its relationship with other theological disciplines (e.g., historical theology, philosophical theology, apologetics, OT theology, NT theology, biblical theology).
- What is a “doctrine”, and how does it relate to the study of systematic theology?
- Give four reasons why Christians should study systematic theology.
- Name six attitudes or activities that should characterize or accompany the study of systematic theology.

b. Questions for Personal Application

- Have you studied systematic theology before?
- In what ways, if any, has this chapter changed your understanding of what systematic theology is? What was attitude toward the study of systematic theology before reading this chapter? What is your attitude now?
- What is the risk to a church or denomination that gives up learning systematic theology for a generation or longer?

- Are there any doctrines listed in the table of contents of Grudem's book which, if studied, would help you solve a current personal difficulty in your life?

4. Scripture Memory Verse

Matthew 28:18-20 ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

5. Exercise

Take time to pray that God will make this study of basic Christian doctrines and the time we spend together an opportunity for you to grow spiritually and in fellowship with Him. Pray that God will use this time for you to understand and apply the teaching of Scripture rightly. Also, please pray for the church, giving thanks to God for specific evidences of His grace made available to you through His church.

6. Assignment for Next Time

Read chapters 2-3 in Bible Doctrine. Next meeting is _____.