

4 – DS101 Discipleship

Course Description

A systematic approach to making Christlike disciples will enable students to learn steps to discipleship, how to identify where persons are in their growth in Christ, and how to help people grow at each level.

The ability for students to disciple someone who also discipled someone is the measure of ministry success. Students will demonstrate the ability to form a group from non-believers. Practical application will be made in the classroom in small groups and in students' faith community. Students will explain in what ways we are able to be like Christ and in what ways we are not able to be like Christ. Students will be able to compare and contrast at least two discipleship methods. Students will learn ways to develop disciples within their own context. This course is foundational for the Church Planting course.

Course Rational

Making Christlike disciples is at the core of the mission of the Church of the Nazarene. Many systems have been designed to help with this process. Courses that try to do an overview of various methods do not go deep enough for the student to understand why the system actually works. It is necessary to examine a model with enough depth to understand it well and then allow students to branch out and modify, adopt, or create a different method as necessary.

Intended Course Outcomes through Engagements

Students will show growth in the following ways:

1. *Character Formation*: Discover what it means to be a disciple of Jesus and make a firm commitment to become like Him.
2. *Content Processing with Peers*: Summarize what the Bible teaches about discipleship and how to apply this knowledge in ministry settings.
3. *Ministry Capability Development*: Assess the need for discipleship in a local church and develop a plan for meeting this need.
4. *Application in Mission and Community*: Assess the need for evangelism and discipleship in the local community and create a plan for how a local church can meet this need.

Connection to Ordination Preparation:

Learning Outcome	Assessment	Program Outcome	Activity Statement
1	1, 3	CH-1	ACC-1, CED-1, DIS-2, HOL-2, PRA-1, PRA-3
2	2	CN-12, CN-20	ACC-3, CON-1, DIS-1, DIS-5, DIS-9, HOL-7
3	4	CX-5, CX-8, CP-9	DIS-7, DPF-1, LEA-7
4	4	CX-5, CX-8, CP-9	DPF-3, EVA-5

Balance:

Content	29%
Competency	28%
Character	21%
Context	22%

Course Texts

Key Texts:

The Bible

Maddix, Mark, and Jay Akkerman. *Missional Discipleship: Partners in God's Redemptive Mission*. Kansas City: Beacon Hill Press, 2013.

Putman, Jim. *Real-Life Discipleship: Building Churches that Make Disciples*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2010.

Zweigle, Grant. Video: "We Make Disciples." Available online at <https://www.whdl.org/we-make-disciples>.

Additional Learning Resources:

See resources available at <http://www.thediscipleshipplace.org>.

These resources are available at the Wesleyan Holiness Digital Library (www.whdl.org):

González, David, and Patricia Picavea. *High Voltage: Discipleship Lessons for Youth*.

Stevens, Woody. *Wesleyan Foundations of the Master's Plan*.

Bartle, Neville. *Following Jesus*.

Course Requirements

1. **Bible Reading and Prayer Journal:** Students should read through the Bible as designated in the *Master Plan for Bible Reading* in the Course of Study. For this course, students will read Leviticus 16 – Numbers 12 and Mark 9 - 16. The focus of the Scripture reading for this course will be on encountering the Holy Spirit through prayer. In addition to reading the Scripture noted above, students should spend at least one hour per week in prayer. Each week, students should choose one different issue in which God is changing them and choose one different person for whom to intercede before God and makes these two things the focus of the prayer time. There should be at least five entries in the journal of at least one paragraph of 200 words each entry. The entries can be scattered across a semester, be daily for intensive modules, or in follow up to modular class meetings. As an alternative, students may give a short oral report in the cohort small group during the class meeting time, sharing how God is developing them through reading the Bible.
2. **Discipleship Discovery:** Students will work in small groups to discuss what discipleship is and what it takes to make disciples. The key resource for this is the Bible, but other course materials and textbooks can be used as secondary resources. Each group will prepare a class presentation of their findings.
3. **Spiritual Gifts Inventory and Reflection:** Students will discover their spiritual gifts and reflect on how God can use these in making disciples. A spiritual gifts inventory/test can be used for this exercise (examples are available on the internet, such as <https://gifts.churchgrowth.org/spiritual-gifts-survey/>). This can be shared in a small group, a written paper, or in a class presentation.
4. **Discipleship Plan:** Students will work in pairs (preferably) to interview people in a local church; this can include the pastor, board members, or other lay people in the fellowship

(use appropriate care when meeting with children or youth, with another adult present). Students need to assess the spiritual needs of the church and if any discipleship program is addressing those needs. Students should also go out into the community and interview at least five people (students, residents, business owners, people in the markets). This can include one family member. Based on this experience, students will develop a plan for how the church can implement a discipleship program to help its members mature into Christlikeness and reach its community. Each group will prepare a written report of their discipleship plan. As an alternative, each group can give an oral presentation of their plan.

Course Assessment

Bible Reading and Prayer Journal	10 %
Discipleship Discovery	25 %
Spiritual Gifts Inventory	15 %
Discipleship Plan	50 %

Course Outline

1. Personal Preparation: A heart to make disciples
2. What is a disciple?
3. Jesus' Call to Make Disciples
4. World Evangelization and Missions
5. Prevenient Grace and God's Work Before Salvation
6. The Call to "Go": Ways to Share the Gospel
7. Calling Someone to Decision
8. "Baptizing" and incorporating new believers in the church
9. "Teaching" and helping new disciples grow
10. Three keys to making disciples
11. How to be an intentional leader
12. A closer look at a relational environment
13. A closer look at the reproducible process
14. Sharing: Being intentional with the spiritually dead and spiritual infants
15. Connect: Helping spiritual children grow
16. Minister: Helping Young Adults help others
17. Disciple: Being intentional with spiritual parents
18. One necessary tool: a small-group curriculum
19. How discipleship is part of the ministry of the Church of the Nazarene
20. Developing a local discipleship program