



LEADERSHIP & DISCIPLESHIP

Instructor: Dr. Jordan Stone
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Mondays, 8:15 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

COURSE DESCRIPTION & PURPOSE

This course is a study of leadership philosophy, principles, and skills through which a pastor can lead a session and a congregation in fostering a culture of discipleship to fulfill the church's mission in its life and witness. A variety of leadership, discipleship, Christian education, and philosophy of ministry topics will be discussed.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- The student will understand the nature of Biblical leadership and its application to Christian ministry.
- The student will understand the various types of leadership, as they apply to different ministries and stages of ministry.
- The student will better understand vision, mission, and goal setting and how to better administrate the church (or ministry) as an organization.
- The student will learn basic principles of conflict management and how to deal with difficult people in their church or ministry.
- The student will learn how to assist in the development of leaders.
- The student will develop an understanding of how a philosophy of ministry is expressed through the discipleship ministry of a congregation (ministry to adults, youth, and children).

REQUIRED TEXTS

Currie, John. *The Pastor as Leader: Principles & Practices for Connecting Preaching & Leadership*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2024.

Marshall, Colin and Tony Payne. *The Trellis and the Vine: The Ministry Mind-Shift That Changes Everything*. Sydney: Matthias Media, 2009.



Packer, J. I. and Gary Parrett. *Grounded in the Gospel: Building Believers the Old-Fashioned Way*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2010.

Witmer, Timothy. *The Shepherd Leader: Achieving Effective Shepherding in Your Church*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 2010.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Leadership Reflection (30%). Interview a pastor who knows you about their leadership style, strengths and weaknesses in pastoral ministry, successes, and challenges, etc. Use the “know-feed-lead-protect” paradigm from Witmer’s book as a guide. Think together through your own strengths and weaknesses and how they might affect your ministry in the church. Provide a *one-thousand-word* summary and reflection on the conversation.

Book Review (30%). Based upon the reading of J. I. Packer and Gary A. Parrett’s book, *Grounded in the Gospel*, conduct a *one-thousand-word* analysis of the Christian Education program in the church you currently attend (or your previous church if you do not yet have a home church in the DFW area). Feel free to interview key pastors, staff, leaders, and lay volunteers with the purpose of discerning not only what is going on in the church but why the church uses the approaches involved in discipling its members. Include a brief evaluation of the discipleship ministries of your local church and how the catechism process is utilized.

This evaluation *might* include (ideas for guidance for the student) the following questions and considerations.

1. What are the strengths and weakness of the educational program?
2. What is the philosophy of ministry of disciple-making/Christian education in the local church? How do people grow in their Christian walk and what does the local church do to assist, educate and train them?
1. Who oversees the Christian Education Program in the local church?
2. Consider and inquire about these ministries. Consider a visit to a class in a few of these groups:
 - a. Children’s Ministry
 - b. Youth Ministry
 - c. Christian Education with Adults
 - d. Ministry to Men and Fathers
 - e. Women’s Ministry
 - f. Single Adult (or Single Again) Ministry
 - g. College Ministry
 - h. Family Ministry
 - i. Older Adult Ministry
3. What is the place and role of Sunday School in the local church?
4. What is the place and role of Small Groups in the local church?
5. How does catechism training fit into the church’s overall program?



6. How is teaching training done?
7. How involved is the (senior) pastor and the session in decisions related to the educational ministry of the church, and how active are they themselves in the educational ministry?
8. What is the place and role of the pastor in the educational ministry of the local church?

Discipleship Classes (30%). Students will produce an outline of lesson plans for the following classes:

- Membership Class
- Communicants Class
- Small Group Leader or Sunday School Teacher Training Class
- Officer Training Class

The professor will provide a sample outline.

Reading Report (10%). Students will submit a reading report at the end of the semester. In the Canvas assignment, simply enter the percentage read of the required texts.

CLASS EXPECTATIONS

Students are required to attend all classes. If a student is “provisionally hindered” from attending class, please notify the instructor. It is expected that students will keep current in their reading and assignments on time. Failure to comply with these standards will result in grade reduction, unless other arrangements have been made.

TECHNOLOGY POLICY (Adapted from Dr. Michael Allen)

Computers, tablets, and smart-phones are not allowed in class. Think we’re over-reacting? Think you’re a master of multitasking? [You are not. No, you really are not. Notes taken by hand are almost always more useful than typed notes,](#) because more thoughtful selectivity goes into them; [plus there are multiple cognitive benefits to writing by hand.](#) And [people who use laptops in class see their grades decline](#)—and even contribute to lowering the grades of *other people*.