

15800 Calvary Road
Kansas City, MO 64147-1341

Course: MS330 – Discipleship Ministry of the Local Church (Legacy)
Credit: 3 Semester Hours
Semester: Spring 2027, Session 1 (1/11-3/5)
Time: NA / Legacy
Location: By Appointment; Online through Canvas/Teams
Instructor: Dr. Joshua Paxton, Joshua.paxton@calvary.edu, (816)322-5152 ext. 1353
(816)679-9387(cell)
Office: CABRE 108

I. DESCRIPTION

A survey of the various discipleship ministries of the local church with a focus on the unique role each plays in the attainment of the total discipleship goals of the local church. Special emphasis will be given to the major teaching ministries of the local church, available materials and resources, and basic principles and practices of organization, administration, and supervision of church discipleship ministries.

This course is offered in two formats: in-person and online. Students registered for in-person attend the classes in person, online students attend the classes via the online classroom. For both in-person and online students, assignments, and interaction outside of the class period are done in the learning management system.

II. OBJECTIVES

A. General competencies to be achieved:

1. Articulate the biblical foundation for the making of disciples. (PLO:* 1, 2) (A:** A, E)
2. Understand the various stages and challenges of making disciples in the local church. (PLO: 3, 4, 5) (A: A, C, E)
3. Design a comprehensive discipleship ministry plan for a local church. (PLO: 3, 4, 5) (A: D, E)

B. Specific competencies to be achieved:

1. Identify key biblical books defining the discipleship process. (PLO: 2) (A: A, E)
2. Understand the importance of various "helping" ministries: teaching, mentoring, counseling, etc. (PLO: 2) (A: A, C)
3. Plan discipleship processes which meet the needs of specific groups of individuals while strengthening the local church. (PLO: 3) (A: A-E)
4. Develop a biblical philosophy of discipleship ministry. (PLO: 1, 2) (A: A-E)

III. REQUIREMENTS

A. Reading

Our Mission: "...to prepare Christians to live and serve in the church and in the world according to the Biblical worldview."

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1. Students will read and study at least five (5) key passages in the Bible.
2. Students will read *Shepherding, Counseling and Sustainability* by Jeff Reed and respond to a series of discussion questions provided in the textbook (~80 pages).
3. Students will read *Laying Solid Foundations in the Gospel* by Jeff Reed and respond to a series of discussion questions provided in the textbook (~80 pages).

B. Process/Response Papers.

1. In conjunction with *Shepherding, Counseling and Sustainability* students will write three (3) response papers.
2. In conjunction with *Laying Solid Foundations in the Gospel*, students will write six (6) process papers by studying a passage of Scripture, then reading a portion of the textbook, then writing answers to questions in preparation for classroom discussions, then, at the end of the process, consider personal applications.
3. Students will also create five (5) "Think Through the Issues" videos according to instructions in class in order for each student to participate well in the discussion.

C. Weekly Quizzes.

Students will take a brief quiz each week (8 total) to review and process course material.

D. Character Assessment Project.

Students will develop both an understanding of the character of a disciple of Jesus Christ, as well as a strategy for guiding a disciple to develop character, according to instructions provided in Canvas.

IV. METHODS

A. In-class methods: listening to lectures, participating in class discussions, writing, and taking tests.

B. Out-of-class methods: reading, writing, research, and studying for tests.

1. Grading:

	Points
1. Reading.....	120 (40/each)
2. Response Papers.....	360 (40/each)
3. Weekly Quizzes.....	320 (40/each)
4. Character Assessment Project.....	200
Total	1000

2. "See Grading Scale in the University Catalog"

C. The Bible is a required textbook in every course at Calvary University. To facilitate academic level study, students are required to use for assignments and research an English translation or version of the Bible based on formal equivalence (*meaning that the translation is generally word-for-word from the original languages*), including any of the following: New American Standard

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(NASB, English Standard Version (ESV), New King James (NKJV), or King James (KJV). Other translations and versions based on dynamic equivalence (*paraphrases, and thought-for-thought translations like NLT and NIV*) may be used as supplemental sources. Please ask the professor if you have questions about a particular translation or version.

D. All class papers must follow the Turabian style according to *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th edition. Unless otherwise indicated book reports and study questions may be in non-research format, interviews and other research papers should be in research paper format. A copy of the Turabian Style Guide is available on the Clark Academic Center page of Calvary's website.

E. Late Assignments: Assignments will be penalized according to the professor's late policy as explained in Canvas.

F. Plagiarism: Plagiarism is defined as copying any content without identifying the source. This also includes taking another person's or AI entity's ideas or constructs and presenting them as your own. Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated. Most assignments at Calvary require the student to produce original work. Therefore, unless specifically permitted by the instructor, the use of AI-generated content is prohibited (even if cited) as it does not represent original work created by the student and is an unreliable aggregate of ideas from other sources. AI, however, may be utilized in cases where the instructor has explicitly permitted its use to accomplish specific tasks. It is only in these cases that AI-generated (or modified) content may be submitted by the student. If there are any questions as to the permissibility of AI use for an assignment, please ask your instructor for clarification.

Any assignment that includes plagiarism will receive a zero (0) grade. Students should note that papers will be submitted in Canvas via "Turn-It-In". This program automatically gives the student's work a plagiarism score, students should strive for a score less than 20.

G. Disabilities: Students with disabilities have the responsibility of informing the Accommodations Support Coordinator (aso@calvary.edu) of any disabling condition that may require support

H. The Clark Academic Center (learning@calvary.edu), located in the library building, is dedicated to providing free academic assistance for all CU students. Student tutors aid with all facets of the writing process, tutor in various subject areas, prepare students for exams and facilitate tests. Please take advantage of this service.

I. Attendance Policy – Calvary has no official attendance policy, the attendance policy of the professor will be explained in class and in Canvas.

V. REQUIRED MATERIALS

The Bible (Instructor will use CSB)

Shepherding, Counseling and Sustainability: The Importance of a Well-Trained Eldership by Jeff Reed, 2015, BILD International, ISBN-13: 978-0-9910852-7-9;

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\$5. Only available at <https://store.bild.org/shepherding-counseling-and-sustainability/>.

Laying Solid Foundations in the Gospel by Jeff Reed, 2009, 2014, BILD International, ISBN 1-891441-11-6; \$9 Note: Only available at <https://store.bild.org/laying-solid-foundations-in-the-gospel/>.

VI. TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

Week 1: Introduction to Discipleship Ministry in the Local Church; The Importance of Acts and the Pauline Epistles in the Discipleship Process

Week 2: Discipleship Principles from Acts, Part 1; The Birth of the Church and the Progress of the Gospel in the Ministry of Peter

Week 3: Discipleship Principles from Acts, Part 2; The Missionary Journeys of Paul and the Expansion of the Early Church

Week 4: Discipleship Principles from Paul's Early Letters; The Process of Establishing Believers in the Gospel and Implications

Week 5: Discipleship Principles from Paul's Middle Letters; The Process of Establishing Believers in the Importance and Purpose of the Church

Week 6: Discipleship Principles from Paul's Later Letters; The Process of Establishing Believers in Household Order and Leadership Development in the Local Church

Week 7: Addressing Various Discipleship Challenges and The Stabilization of Local Churches

Week 8: Designing a Discipleship Ministry for the Local Church