

Introduction to Ministry 1

Ministry Skills for the Whole Body of Christ



Faculty Contact

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Please contact me whenever you have comments, suggestions and questions.

Course Description

An introduction to ministry skills for all Christians to discover and use the gifts God has given them to grow in Christ, to serve with Him in His ongoing ministry, to build up the whole body of Christ to maturity and to share the gospel of Jesus' death, burial and resurrection for our forgiveness and salvation.

The course begins by examining the Scriptural foundations for God's people as His royal priesthood equipped for works of service to His glory.

Week-by-week through interactive practice the course builds practical ministry skills in many areas including listening, personal spiritual growth as God's servants, planning, brief counselling, member care, writing, local outreach, street ministry, visitation and hospitality, short-term missions, and more.

Course Objectives

1. To develop a Biblical understanding of ministry as the work of the whole body of Christ, God's chosen royal priesthood in which every member has vital work to do (1 Corinthians 12:15-31; Ephesians 4:11-17; 1 Peter 2:9-10). To foster awareness that every Christian is "in ministry" and service is vital to our relationship with God and our salvation (Ephesians 2:8-10; James 2).
2. To review the origins of ministry in God, Father, Son and Spirit. To see how the ministries of God's people are in essence extensions of His ministry as He works in us and through us to accomplish His will (Philippians 1:6, "For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work among you (plural) will complete it by the day of Christ Jesus"). Jesus said, ***"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many"*** (Mark 10:45; Matthew 10:28). Ministry is sacrificial, one giving up their life for another (John 15:13; 2 Timothy 1:8).
3. Understand and apply God's wisdom in His design of His church, its governance in leadership, and the nature of all Christians as members of one another (Romans 12:1-5; Hebrews 12:18-24). To know our place in Christ's body and work and flourish in the ministries He gives us which are essential for the health of His church and our salvation (Romans 2:8-10; James 2:14-26).

4. To learn practical ministry skills to enhance our own ministries which we in turn can share with other members to help them realise their potential in using the gifts God has given them within their particular God-given responsibilities.
5. Learn listening skills beneficial in all aspects of ministry. Listening closely to God and others is essential to know God's will and the true needs of others.
6. Strengthen our own personal spiritual disciplines and devotions with God and His Word to build a strong enduring foundation for ministry that God guides for the benefit of others. Learn from Jesus' focus on His Father and time with Him that empowered Him to preach, teach and serve sacrificially (Luke 5:16).
7. Increase our awareness and understanding of our spiritual gifts. Learn means to help members discover the spiritual gifts God has given them and encourage them in their use to the edification and empowerment of others in keeping with God's will for members of all ages, men, women and children.
8. Enhance our skills in prayerfully planning our ministry work, including scheduling our time, keeping journals and diaries to measure progress and to plan followup with those with whom we are working. Recognizing that ministry needs are infinite but we and our time are finite, develop skills for pacing our work and making time for renewal daily, weekly and annually. Share these skills with members who are initiating and leading specific ministries.
9. Further to the dimensions of planning above, enhance our writing skills which have wide applications in many aspects of ministry including Bible lesson preparation, bulletins, letters and cards for members and visitors, evangelism and relations with the wider community in which the church lives.
10. Building on the practice of listening and writing skills, enhance our interpersonal communications skills for building relationships and understanding the concerns, needs and aspirations of the people with whom we work.
11. Develop skills in small group leadership dynamics as small groups are a vital part of church life with much potential to serve many important purposes including evangelism, edification, education, member care and benevolent service.
12. Enhance our abilities to plan spiritually enriching devotionals for individuals, visitations and small groups including songs, expository Biblical messages, meditations upon Scripture and prayers that are edifying and motivating for all who participate.
13. Learn basic counselling skills based on Biblical principles and the ministry of Jesus. Attention will be given to effective cognitive behaviour therapy (cf. Psalm 131; Lamentations 3:19–24), brief counselling, referral and the basics of specific areas such

as marriage, grief, conflict, etc. Brief counselling is a form of counselling facilitated by people who are not professional counsellors but are in situations where they can help people with solvable acute (vs. chronic) life concerns in 5 sessions or less.

14. Develop skills in visitation ministry and hospitality for all members especially for those who are ill, shut-in or require assistance for life issues on a short-term basis and to build relationships with all members in general.
15. Build a team approach to member care to help people who have ongoing or short-term pressing needs that can be met by members working together (Titus 3:14).
16. Expand our abilities for effective member and local outreach through proactive planning of events, transportation ministry, street ministry, Sunday morning welcoming of visitors with proactive efforts for follow up, etc.
17. Build skills for effective planning and delivery of Biblical teaching and creative activities for short-term foreign mission Bible Schools and domestic Bible schools for smaller churches.
18. Develop means to share ministry skills and enhance Bible knowledge and application for mentors and interns with strong desires to serve.
19. Plan Bible lessons and activities to disciple and build enduring relationships with new Christians, considering special emphases for men's and women's classes.
20. Returning to the initial goals of points 1. to 3. above, increase our depth of knowledge, appreciation and application of God's Word as His primary instrument of spiritual growth, health and service for eternal ministry outcomes.

Time may be available for other aspects of ministry of particular interest to you and of benefit to the class and particularly their churches.

Required Readings

Primary Text

Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments

Online Class Resources Folder

<https://app.box.com/s/9529944fji5pnxmz5ax8a6ojawI0onoj>

Resources and bibliography will be posted to the online class resources folder throughout the term as they are discussed in class.

Course Assignments & Evaluation

Weekly Feedback & Practice	15%	
Biblical Theology of Ministry Paper	25%	Due February 18
2 Class Presentations (A/V or Paper)	60% (2 x 30%)	Due March 18 & April 22

Weekly Feedback & Practice 15%

After each class post a 150–200 word summary of what you found most valuable in the class – and – one way in which you applied it in the days following class – or – how you plan to apply it in the future of your ministry with God.

Every post receives the full grade percentage point so it's important to post your feedback and experience every week to receive your full credit.

Post your feedback every Tuesday some time before 5:00 p.m. ET.

Biblical Theology of Ministry Paper 25% Due February 18

Focusing on class goals 1, 2, 3 and 20, write a 5 to 8 page paper based on Scripture articulating your understanding of God's Biblical theology of ministry.

Rely on Scripture alone. You do not require secondary sources for this work.

Class Presentations (Visual or Paper) 30% (2 x 30%) Due March 18 & April 22

1. Prepare and deliver two presentations in visual or written form on any two specific areas of ministry from our list of class goals that are of particular interest to you. Additional subjects may be researched and presented with my prior approval.
2. Visual presentations will include twenty-five to thirty-five high quality slides with text, pictures, maps, charts, etc., including bibliography and picture credits suitable for viewing in church Bible classes and one-on-one discussions. Format may be PowerPoint, Apple Keynote, LibreOffice (<http://www.libreoffice.org/download/libreoffice-fresh/>), Prezi or a Word to pdf document in landscape orientation.
3. In your presentation or paper conclusion discuss how a fuller understanding of your chosen topic and your supporting Scriptures can help us in our personal growth and in our ministry with God and His church.
4. Papers will be 8 to 10 pages, plus bibliography. Use SBL format.

5. Research at least 10 high quality secondary sources of relevant literature for both visual or paper presentations, including 3 scholarly peer-reviewed articles. Cite all secondary sources you use in your bibliography. Focus on high quality peer-reviewed resources. Do not use internet sites. I am available to help you find high quality scholarly sources.

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