



DISC5260 Discipleship Strategies

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Church Ministry Division

Fall 2021

Wednesday 9:00-10:50am

David Odom, PhD

Associate Professor of Student Ministry

Director of Youth Ministry Institute

dodom@nobts.edu

504.816.8103

Dodd 203

Ree Reinhardt, BSW, MDiv, ThM

Teaching Assistant/Grader

odom.grader@gmail.com

Maci Duncan, BS

Administrative Assistant

ymi@nobts.edu

504.816.8105

Mission Statement

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College is to prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

Course Description

This course is designed to equip students for leading discipleship ministries in a local church by exploring a variety of methods and approaches used in a response to the Great Commission mandate in churches today. Students are exposed to select and different materials and methods of discipleship in correlation to the Bible Study programs in local churches to provide basis for future adaptation. The student is also introduced to developmental processes currently available.

Student Learning Outcomes

This course is designed to introduce students to the basic principles, procedures, guidelines, and available resources for discipleship strategies within the local church. The student involved in this process should be able to accomplish the following:

- Examine a variety of discipleship strategies that can be utilized in local church praxis.
- Understand and be able to discuss foundational concepts related to current developmental processes for various age groups.
- Value/Appreciate the importance of the discipleship mandate given to all believers in Scripture.
- Develop a discipleship strategy, which can be implemented in the student's specific ministry setting.

Textbooks

Absalom, Alex and Bobby Harrington. *Discipleship that Fits: The Five Kinds of Relationships God Uses to Help Us Grow*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2016.

Coleman, Robert. *The Master Plan of Evangelism*. Grand Rapids, MI: Revell, 2006.

Dean, Jody and Hal Stewart, eds. *Together We Equip*. Bloomington, IN: Westbow Press, 2018.

Malphurs, Aubrey. *Strategic Disciple Making: A Practical Tool for Successful Ministry*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2009.

Course Methodology

The course will involve the following methodologies: reading assignments, classroom lecture and discussion, and individual learning assignments.

This course is taught on campus in the classroom.

Course Requirements

All assignments must be submitted electronically on Blackboard. Unless otherwise noted, all assignments are due before midnight on the due date. See Course Schedule (last page) for due dates.

1. Classroom Decorum and Engagement (10%)

Attendance/Participation is required for every course session due to the interactive learning format of the course. A positive attitude can only enhance the learning experience. Therefore, for the purposes of this class, a *positive attitude* and *participation* are defined as productive and interactive engagement with in-class/online threads and dialogues throughout a full course session. You cannot participate effectively if you are not focused on the subject matter while in the classroom. Consequently, the student is expected:

- To come class with a constructive point of view, prepared to interact with the readings and resources on the course topic in discussion groups and classroom dialogues.
- To dress appropriately and in accordance with the NOBTS Student Handbook. *This means no flip-flops and no ball caps!*
- To turn cell phones on silent and to not accept any phone calls during class.
- Use laptops, iPads and other electronic devices appropriately to enhance class participation and abstain from social media (i.e., Facebook, messaging, etc.) and ministry responsibilities (e-mails, web site updates, etc.) during class sessions.

2. Book Critiques (15% or each book is 5%)

Write a 3-page type-written double-spaced report on three of the textbooks (*Discipleship that Fits*, *The Master Plan of Evangelism*, and *Together We Equip*). The book review should include the following two components: 1) A one-page **content summary** 2) A two-page **reflection summary** of significant ideas (direct quotes or general ideas) from the book. The following should be included with each significant idea: a) the book page number; b) one of the three identified categories below and c) brief reflective personal comments.

1. **AGREEMENT** – Thoughts with which you are in firm agreement; things that make you say “Yes!” or items that inspire you to action in your life and move your spirit.
2. **DISAGREEMENT** – Thoughts in which you find dissonance; areas with which you might disagree.
3. **MORE THOUGHT** – Areas that you want to spend more time thinking about; things that make you wonder; items on which you are not sure what your stance is.

3. Biblical Overview of Discipleship Paper (20%)

Write an 8-page paper discussing the biblical mandate for discipleship. Include an overview of Old Testament and New Testament examples of discipleship. Examine how this mandate and the examples included are applicable to the local church. Use at least eight sources including the Bible and the course texts, preferably scholarly works. Seminary Style Guide is required for this assignment. Refer to the Blackboard document “General Considerations for the Biblical Overview of Discipleship Paper” for help with this assignment.

Assignment Formatting

- Type this assignment according to Seminary Style Guide format
- All papers must be written in third person and double-spaced
- Use 12 point Times New Roman font
- Use the same number of references as assigned pages
- Use correct spelling and grammar
- Use proper pagination
- Include your name on the *cover page*
- Write the *full* assignment

4. Profile for Discipleship Strategy/Planning Chart (15%)

Create a profile identifying the context for the development of a discipleship strategy (the upcoming assignment). Include a half-page detailed description of the setting for the strategy (geographic location, ministry setting, needs, etc.) and a half-page detailed description of the individuals involved in the process (age, developmental needs, gender, etc.). Fill-out the “Discipleship Planning Chart” (on Blackboard) using the questionnaire guide provided by the professor. This profile should guide your understanding, evaluation, research, and development of your discipleship strategy handbook/presentation.

5. Discipleship Strategy Implementation (40%)

Based on the discipleship strategies and the foundational concepts of development discussed in class, the biblical foundations and mandates of discipleship discussed in your **Biblical Overview of Discipleship paper**, the **Profile for Discipleship Strategy/Planning Chart** you created, and additional personal research, **develop** a discipleship strategy which can be implemented in your specific ministry setting. Create a PowerPoint presentation (25 slides) or PDF document (25 pages), which provides an overview, explanation and rationale for your strategy. This presentation should include a **minimum** of 8 to 12 weeks detailed description for **how** to implement your strategy (which can either include planning processes or curriculum and content materials, etc.) should be included in this presentation. Refer to the document “Discipleship Strategies Development Guide” on Blackboard for help with this assignment. **Students will also select 2-3 slides (2-3 minutes) from this assignment to present on presentation day(s).**

Please complete the assignment according to provided rubric (page 5 of this syllabus).

Evaluation of Grade

Biblical Overview of Discipleship Paper	20%
Book Critiques (3 at 5% each)	15%
Profile for Discipleship Strategy Planning Chart	15%
Discipleship Strategy Handbook and Implementation	40%
Classroom Decorum and Engagement	<u>10%</u>
	100%

Technical Assistance

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System NOBTS.Blackboard.com.
3. ITCsupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

Course Policies

Students are responsible for completing all reading assignments.

Please arrive on time.

Respect the professor and other members of the class.

Maintain confidentiality when someone shares personal information.

Participate in class and group discussions.

Professor's Policy on Late Assignments

All work is due on the assigned date and time in the syllabus. Assignments are due before midnight on the day they are due. Late assignments will be penalized an initial 10 percent penalty and one percent for each day after the due date. No assignments will be accepted more than two weeks after the original due date. Submit all assignments electronically on Blackboard. Do not send files as attachments via email to the professor.

Professor's Availability and Assignment Feedback

The student may contact the professor at any time using the email address provided in the course syllabus. The professor will make every effort to return answers to emailed questions within a 24-hour period of time. Assignments requiring grading will be returned to the student within a reasonable period of time. Student feedback on graded assignments will be provided through the grading rubric located in the student's Blackboard Grade Book. The student will find comments in the grading rubric, as well as on graded paper assignments. The student may also email the course grader with questions regarding grading.

Style and Formatting

A copy of the approved NOBTS Style Guide can be found in the course Blackboard shell, or can be located online at the Writing Center's page on the seminary website at:

<https://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf>

Help for Writing Papers at "The Write Stuff"

This is the official NOBTS Writing Center online help site for writing academic papers and essays. <http://www.nobts.edu/writing/default.html> You will discover writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help you become a better writer. Go here for Turabian helps and guidelines.

In addition, the website Grammarly (www.grammarly.com) will help you become a better writer. Eazypaper (www.eazypaper.com) will help you automatically format your sources.

Academic Honesty Policy

All graduate and undergraduate NOBTS students, whether on-campus, internet, or extension center students, are expected to adhere to the highest Christian standard of honesty and integrity when completing academic assignments for all courses in every delivery system format. The Bible provides our standard for academic integrity and honesty. This standard applies whether a student is taking tests, quizzes, exams, writing papers, completing Discussion Boards, or any other course requirement.

Plagiarism on Written Assignments

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Please be aware that plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. Refer to the NOBTS Student Handbook

<http://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/studentservices/NOBTSHandbook.pdf> where the definition, penalties and policies associated with plagiarism are clearly defined.

Academic Policies

Academic policies related to absences, grading scale, final examination schedules, and other topics can be found in the current online catalog: [New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Graduate Catalog](#).

Grading Scale

Each student's final grade will be based on your total accumulation of points as indicated under the Assignments and Evaluation Criteria section of this syllabus, according to the grading scale in the NOBTS catalog.

A 93-100 B 85-92 C 77-84 D 70-76 F 69 and below

Extra Credit

The policy for extra credit in this course is students can submit an additional Journal Article Review for extra credit. The extra journal article review will not substitute or replace any course assignment. The extra credit assignment is worth up to three points on the final grade.

Policy for Graduating Seniors

Graduating seniors are responsible for alerting the professor of your intention to graduate. All of your assignments must be completed by noon (12:00pm) on the Wednesday prior to commencement exercises.

Special Needs

If you need an accommodation for any type of disability, please email me to discuss any modifications you may need.

Withdrawal from the Course

The administration has set deadlines for withdrawal. These dates and times are published on the academic calendar. Administration procedures must be followed. You are responsible to handle withdrawal requirements. A professor cannot issue a withdrawal. You must complete the proper paperwork to ensure you will not receive a final grade of "F" in the course if you choose not to engage in the online class once you are enrolled.

Selected Bibliography

Adsit, Christopher B. *Personal Disciplemaking: A Step-by-step Guide for Leading a New Christian from New Birth to Maturity*. Orlando, FL: Integrated Resources, 1996.

Blackaby, Henry and Richard. *Spiritual Leadership: Moving People on to God's Agenda*. Nashville, TN: B & H Publishers, 2001.

Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *The Cost of Discipleship*. New York: Macmillan, 1937.

Briner, Bob and Ray Pritchard. *The Leadership Lessons of Jesus: A Timeless Model for Today's Leaders*. Nashville, TN: B & H Publishers, 1997.

Bruce, A. B. *The Training of the Twelve*. Reprint ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 1971.

Calkins, Raymond. *How Jesus Dealt With Men*. New York: Abingdon-Cokesbury Press, 1942.

Camp, Lee C. *Mere Discipleship: Radical Christianity in a Rebellious World*. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, 2008.

Cloud, Henry, and John Townsend. *How People Grow: What the Bible Reveals About Personal Growth*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2001.

Cocklereece, Tom. *Simple Discipleship: How to Make Disciples in the 21st Century*. St. Charles, IL: ChurchSmart Resources, 2009.

Cole, Neil. *Search and Rescue: Becoming a Disciple Who Makes a Difference*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2008.

Coleman, Robert E. *The Master Plan of Evangelism*. Old Tappan: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1964.

Dodson, Jonathan K. *Gospel-Centered Discipleship*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2012.

Eims, LeRoy. *The Lost Art of Disciple Making*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1978.

Gangel, Kenneth. "The Meaning of Leadership" in *Leadership Handbook of Management & Administration*. James D. Berkley, ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2007.

Goleman, Daniel, Richard Boyatis, and Annie McKee. *Primal Leadership: Revitalizing the Power of Emotional Intelligence*. Boston: Harvard Business School Press, 2004.

Habermas, Ronald T. *Introduction to Christian Education and Formation: A Lifelong Plan for Christ-Centered Restoration*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2008.

Hedges, Brian G. *Christ Formed in You: The Power of the Gospel for Personal Change*. Wapwallopen, PA: Shepherd Press, 2010.

- Hesselbein, Frances and Marshall Goldsmith, eds. *The Leader of the Future 2: Visions, Strategies, and Practices for the New Era*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2006.
- Hodges, Herb. *Tally Ho the Fox: The Foundation for Building World-Visionary, World-Impacting, Reproducing Disciples*. 2 ed. Augusta, GA: Manhattan Source, 2001.
- Hull, Bill. *The Complete Book of Discipleship: On Being and Making Followers of Christ*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2006.
- _____. *The Disciple-Making Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Fleming H. Revell, 1990.
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- Huxhold, Harry N. *Twelve Who Followed: The Story of Jesus and His First Disciples*. Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Publishing House, 1987.
- Iorg, Jeff. *The Painful Side of Leadership: Moving Forward Even When It Hurts*. Nashville, TN: B&H Books, 2009.
- Issler, Klaus. *Living Into the Life of Jesus: The Formation of Christian Character*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books, 2012.
- Jones, Laurie Beth. *Jesus CEO: Using Ancient Wisdom for Visionary Leadership*. New York: Hyperion, 1995.
- Koessler, John. *True Discipleship: The Art of Following Jesus*. Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2003.
- Lane, Timothy S., and Paul David Tripp. *How People Change*. Greensboro, NC: New Growth Press, 2006.
- Lawless, Chuck. *Discipled Warriors: Growing Healthy Churches That Are Equipped for Spiritual Warfare*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Academic & Professional, 2002.
- Mancini, Will. *Innovating Discipleship: Four Paths to Real Discipleship Results (Church Unique Intentional Leader Series)*. Lexington, KY: CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2013.
- McCallum, Dennis and Jessica Lowery. *Organic Disciplemaking: Mentoring Others Into Spiritual Maturity and Leadership*. Houston, TX: Touch Publications, 2006.
- Mitchell, Michael R. *Leading, Teaching, and Making Disciples: World-Class Christian Education in the Church, School, and Home*. Bloomington, IN: Crossway Books, 2010.

- Ogden, Greg. "Servant Leadership" in *Leadership Handbook of Management & Administration*. James D. Berkley, ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2007.
- _____. *Transforming Discipleship: Making Disciples a Few at a Time*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books, 2003.
- _____ and Daniel Meyer. *Leadership Essentials: Shaping Vision, Multiplying Influence, Defining Character*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Connect, 2007.
- O'Grady, John F. *Disciples and Leaders: The Origins of Christian Ministry in the New Testament*. New York: Paulist Press, 1991.
- Petersen, Jim. *Lifestyle Discipleship: Encouraging Others to Spiritual Maturity*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2007.
- Pettit, Paul, ed. *Foundations of Spiritual Formation: A Community Approach to Becoming Like Christ*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2008.
- Pope, Randy, and Kittie Murray. *Insourcing: Bringing Discipleship Back to the Local Church (Leadership Network Innovation Series)*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2013.
- Putman, David. *Breaking the Discipleship Code*. Nashville, TN: B & H Publishing Group, 2008.
- Scazzero, Peter L., and Warren Bird. *The Emotionally Healthy Church: A Strategy for Discipleship That Actually Changes Lives*. Updated & Expanded ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2010.
- Taylor, Edward Lynn. *The Disciples of Jesus in the Gospel of Mark*. London: University Microfilms International, 1980.
- Wilkins, Michael J. *Following the Master: A Biblical Theology of Discipleship*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1992.
- Willard, Dallas. *The Spirit of the Disciplines: Understanding How God Changes Lives*. San Francisco: Harper & Row Publishers, 1988.
- Wright, N.T. *Following Jesus: Biblical Reflections on Discipleship*. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1995.

Strategy Handbook and Implementation Rubric

Discipleship Strategy & Implementation				
This rubric describes how you will be evaluated for your Discipleship Strategy Handbook & Implementation Paper.				
	Levels of Achievement			
Criteria	Excellent	Good	Needs Improvement	Deficient
	10 Points	8.5 Points	7 Points	5 Points
Discipleship Content	Strategy is a well thought-out, exceptional strategy that supports the biblical basis for discipleship. The rationale is clearly communicated. Reflects application of critical thinking. Has a clear goal with prudent time stamps that are appropriate. A variety of sources are referenced. Is biblically accurate.	Strategy is a well thought-out, good plan that supports the biblical basis for discipleship. The rationale is given. Has application of critical thinking apparent. Has a clear goal with good time stamps. An acceptable number of sources are referenced. Is biblically accurate.	Strategy supports the biblical basis for discipleship. The rationale is vaguely referenced. Has application of critical thinking that is apparent. Has no clear goal and unwise time stamps. A limited number of sources are referenced. Has some inconsistencies.	Strategy provides inconsistent information for the biblical basis for discipleship. No rationale for discipleship is given. Has no apparent application of critical thinking. Has no clear goal and no selected time stamps. A few sources are referenced. Has significant misconceptions or misinterpretation on discipleship.
Grammatical Convention	No spelling, grammatical, or punctuation errors. High-level use of vocabulary and word choice.	Few (1 to 3) spelling, grammatical, or punctuation errors. Good use of vocabulary word choice.	Minimal (3 to 5) spelling, grammatical, or punctuation errors. Low-level use of vocabulary and word choice.	More than 5 spelling, grammatical, or punctuation errors. Poor use of vocabulary and word choice.
Strategy Organization	Discipleship strategy is clearly focused in an organized and thoughtful manner. Discipleship strategy is constructed in an exceptional and logical pattern to support the mission of the church in the selected profile context.	Discipleship strategy supports the mission of the church. Plan has a pattern, but occasionally is unfocused on specific profile. Strategic steps provided are logical and supports mission of the church in the selected profile context.	Strategy plan has focus but strays from the profile at times. Strategic steps appear to have a pattern, but the pattern is not consistently carried out in the project. Information in the strategy loosely supports the mission of the church in the selected profile context.	Strategic planning Content is unfocused and haphazard. Information does not support the solution to the challenge to make disciples. Information provided has no apparent pattern to support the mission of the church in the selected profile context.
Presentation Level	Exceptional creativity in visual format with over 20 slides or pages. Multimedia (charts, graphs, tables, illustrations, video) is used or referenced to clarify and illustrate the main points. Format enhances the content. Presentation captures audience attention. Presentation is organized, well planned	Good creativity in visual format with 17-19 slides or pages. Multimedia (charts, graphs, tables, illustrations, video) is used or referenced to illustrate the main points. Format is appropriate for the content. Presentation captures audience or reader's attention. Presentation is well organized.	Acceptable creativity in visual format with 13-16 slides or pages. Multimedia (charts, graphs, tables, illustrations, video) loosely illustrates the main points. Format does not suit the content. Presentation does not capture audience or reader's attention. Presentation is loosely organized.	Limited creativity in visual format with 12 or less slides or pages. Presentation appears sloppy and/or unfinished. Multimedia (charts, graphs, tables, illustrations, video) is overused or underused. Format does not enhance content. Presentation has no clear organization.
Late Work Penalty	0 Points	-1 Points	-2 Points	-3 Points
Additional Missed Points	0 Points	-1 Points	-2 Points	-3 Points
	No additional missed points.	Reason Provided in Feedback.	Reason Provided in Feedback.	Reason Provided in Feedback.

DISC5260 Discipleship Strategies

Course Schedule

The professor reserves the right to make changes to the schedule as needed
You are responsible for all assigned readings. All readings may not be covered in class

Date	Reading Due	Assignments Due
Unit 1: Introduction to Discipleship Strategies		
8/18	Malphurs, ch. 1-2	
Unit 2: What is the Mission of the Church?		
8/25	Malphurs, ch. 3-4; Dean/Stewart, ch. 1	
Unit 3: What is Biblical Discipleship?		
9/1	Dean/Stewart, ch. 2-3	
Unit 4: Who are My Disciples?		
9/8	Dean/Stewart, ch. 4-5	
Unit 5: The Pattern of Spiritual Growth		
9/15	Dean/Stewart, ch. 6; Coleman, ch. 1	Book Critiques due before midnight
Unit 6: Discipleship Shifts & Church Categories		
9/22	Coleman, ch. 2-3	
Unit 7: Strategy Development		
9/29	Coleman, ch. 4; Absalom/Harrington, ch. 1	
10/6	Fall Break (no class)	
Unit 8: Approaches to Disciple-Making		
10/13	Absalom/Harrington, ch. 2-3	Biblical Overview due before midnight
Unit 9: Five Models of Discipleship		
10/20	Malphurs, ch. 6-7	
Unit 10: Mentoring Men and Women		
10/27	Malphurs, ch. 8-9	

Date	Reading Due	Assignments Due
Unit 11: Preschoolers, Children, and Discipleship		
11/3	Dean/Stewart, ch. 7-8	Profile/Planning Chart due before midnight
Unit 12: Teenagers, Families, and Discipleship		
11/10	Dean/Stewart, ch. 9; Absalom/Harrington, ch. 4	
Unit 13: Evaluation of Discipleship Strategies		
11/17	Absalom/Harrington, ch. 5	Discipleship Strategy Handbook and Implementation due before midnight
11/24	Thanksgiving Break (no class)	
Unit 14: Discipleship Strategy Presentation Overview		
12/1	Absalom/Harrington, ch. 7-8	Strategy Highlights Presentation Day