



**DISC5260 Discipleship Strategies**  
**New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary**  
**Church Ministry Division**  
**Fall 2021 (8-Week Online Term II Intensive)**

**Dr. Joe Sherrer**  
**Professor of Discipleship & Ministry Leadership**  
**jsherrer@nobts.edu**  
**405-312-4995**

**Mission Statement**

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College 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.

**Course Teaching Methodology**

The course will involve the following methodologies: lecture, group discussion, and an interactive discovery-learning format.

**Textbooks**

The following text and resources are required reading for class discussions and are to be read in their entirety unless otherwise specified.

**Required Texts**

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, 1993.

Dean, Jody and Hal Stewart. *Together We Equip: Integrating Discipleship and Ministry Leadership for Holistic Spiritual Formation*. Bloomington, IN: Westbow Press, 2018.

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

## Course Requirements

All assignments should be submitted on time via blackboard for this course. In the blackboard shell, click the "Upload Assignments" link to upload your work. Please note that every assignment that is uploaded is time stamped with the date and time of the upload.

## Assignments

- 1. Biblical Overview of Discipleship Paper – 20 points** **Due: Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>**  
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. Turabian formatting is required for this assignment.

### Assignment Formatting

- Type this assignment according to Turabian 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
- 2. Book Critiques –10 points total (each book is 5 points) Due: Oct 25<sup>th</sup> and Nov 8<sup>th</sup>**  
On the assigned day, you turn in a 3-page type-written report on the assigned book. The book review should include the following two components: 1) A **content summary** that is double spaced for page one and 2) A **reflection summary** that is a single-spaced list 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. **A double space between each entry of the list is expected.** Also, include a one-sentence statement on your completed reading of the book at the **END** of the critique.
    - **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.
    - **DISAGREEMENT** – Thoughts in which you find dissonance; areas with which you might disagree.
    - **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.

**Due:** Coleman – *Master Plan of Evangelism* (Oct 25<sup>th</sup>)

Dean and Stewart – *Together We Equip*

**or**

Harrington and Absalom – *Discipleship That Fits* (Nov 8<sup>th</sup>)

- 3. Profile for Discipleship Strategy/Planning Chart– 15 points** **Due: Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>**  
Create a profile identifying the context for the development of a discipleship strategy (the upcoming final 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" using the questionnaire guide provided by the professor. This profile should guide your understanding, evaluation, research, and development of your discipleship strategy handbook/presentation.

**4. Discipleship Strategy Handbook and Implementation – 40 points Due: Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>**

Based on the discipleship strategies and the foundational concepts of development laid in class, the biblical foundations and mandates of discipleship discussed in your Biblical Overview of Discipleship paper, the context profile you created, and personal research, develop a discipleship strategy which can be implemented in your specific ministry setting. Create a PowerPoint presentation (25 slides), 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. Further directions regarding this assignment will be provided during class. PDF's, Keynote, or Pages will not be accepted for this assignment. Please complete the assignment following the rubric provided on Black Board.

**5. Online Discussion Board Engagement – 15 points**

**Due: Weekly**

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 online threads and dialogues throughout a full course session. You cannot participate effectively if you are not engaged in the online dialogues on the subject matter. Consequently, the student is expected to:

- Post answers, comments, and questions on the discussion board threads
- Provide on-going biblical, philosophical, or social science research to support your assertions.
- Reflect on an idea presented in one of the textbooks.
- Relate an example or story that conveys an application to the thread.

**Final Examination**

The professor reserves the right to administer a final exam if the class fails to participate in a manner that is engaging and acceptable.

**Evaluation of Grade**

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

1. Biblical Overview of Discipleship Paper	20%
2. Book Critiques (2 at 5% each)	10%
3. Profile for Discipleship Strategy Planning Chart	15%
4. Discipleship Strategy Handbook and Implementation	40%
5. Online Discussion Board Engagement	<u>15%</u>
	100%

**Additional Information**

**Technical Assistance**

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

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

**Writing Style Guide**

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”**

NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help in becoming a better writer.

### **Late Assignments**

Assignments not submitted on the due dates are considered late and will be automatically penalized 10% for each date late including weekends. Late assignments will not be accepted one week beyond the original due date, no exceptions. **No grades of Incomplete will be issued for this course. If a late assignment is not received, a grade of “F” is automatically earned for the course.**

### **Grading Scale**

Your final grade will be based on your total accumulation of points as indicated under the *Evaluation of Grade* section of this syllabus according to the grading scale in the NOBTS 2016-2017 catalog.

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

### **Netiquette**

Appropriate Online Behavior. Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online on Discussion Boards or whenever interaction occurs through web, digital, or other electronic medium. The student is expected to interact with other students in a fashion that will promote learning and respect for the opinions of others in the course. A spirit of Christian charity is expected at all times in the online environment.

### **Web-based Course Reminder/Warning**

Web-based courses are, by nature, a different kind of learning experience than courses taught in the traditional classroom. Because of this structure, this web-based course is more reading and writing intensive than traditional classroom courses. Rigorous study of the deep things of God can be a rewarding experience for anyone who participates in it, but it also calls for extra diligence and integrity in completing the work. This reality does not mean that a web-based course cannot be successful in equipping you, the student, for effective, God-honoring ministry. It simply means utilizing a different strategy. Internet courses allow room for independent learners to thrive—to work at a responsible pace, to engage in student-led discussions, and to take ownership of the learning of course content. Note that your instructors are praying for your success.

### **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. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

## Course Schedule

Unit	Lecture Topic	Weeks
Unit 1	Introduction	October 11 <sup>th</sup>
Unit 2	What is Biblical Discipleship?	
Unit 3	Who are My Disciples?	October 18 <sup>th</sup>
Unit 4	Stages of Discipleship	
<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Assigned Text Critique and Review</b>	<b>Due October 25<sup>th</sup></b>
Unit 5	The Pattern of Spiritual Growth	October 25 <sup>th</sup>
Unit 6	Discipleship Training and Process	
<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Biblical Overview of Discipleship Paper</b>	<b>Due November 1<sup>st</sup></b>
Unit 7	Strategy Development	November 1 <sup>st</sup>
Unit 8	Strategy Development	
<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Assigned Text Critique and Review</b>	<b>Due November 8<sup>th</sup></b>
Unit 9	Program Approaches to Discipleship	November 8 <sup>th</sup>
Unit 10	Five Models of Discipleship	
<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Profile/Discipleship Planning Chart</b>	<b>Due November 15<sup>th</sup></b>
Unit 11	Mentoring Men, and Women	November 15 <sup>th</sup>
Unit 12	Preschoolers, Children, and Discipleship	
Unit 13	Teenagers, Families, and Discipleship	November 29 <sup>th</sup>
Unit 14	Evaluating of Discipleship	
<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Discipleship Strategy Handbook and Implementation Paper</b>	<b>Due December 6<sup>th</sup></b>

### 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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.
- Hunt, Josh, and Larry Mays. *Disciple-Making Teachers: How to Equip Adults for Growth and Action*. Loveland, CO: Group Publishing Inc., 1998.
- 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 Kitti 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.

## **Student Services**

*This is a partial list of NOBTS student services available to all students, no matter your delivery system or location. If you have questions or do not see what you need here, please refer to [www.nobts.edu/student-services](http://www.nobts.edu/student-services), email us at [studentservices@nobts.edu](mailto:studentservices@nobts.edu), or call the Dean of Students office at 800-662-8701, ext. 3283. We are glad to assist you!*

<b>Need</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Web Page</b>
Advising – Graduate Program	<a href="mailto:studentservices@nobts.edu">studentservices@nobts.edu</a>	504.282.4455 x3312	<a href="http://www.nobts.edu/registrar/default.html#advising">www.nobts.edu/registrar/default.html#advising</a>
Advising – Undergraduate Program	<a href="mailto:lcadminasst@nobts.edu">lcadminasst@nobts.edu</a>	504.816.8590	<a href="http://www.nobts.edu/LeavellCollege">www.nobts.edu/LeavellCollege</a>
Church Minister Relations (for ministry jobs)	<a href="mailto:cmr@nobts.edu">cmr@nobts.edu</a>	504.282.4455 x3291	<a href="http://www.nobts.edu/CMR">www.nobts.edu/CMR</a>
Financial Aid	<a href="mailto:financialaid@nobts.edu">financialaid@nobts.edu</a>	504.282.4455 x3348	<a href="http://www.nobts.edu/financialaid">www.nobts.edu/financialaid</a>
PREP (help to avoid student debt)	<a href="mailto:Prepassistant1@nobts.edu">Prepassistant1@nobts.edu</a>	504.816.8091	<a href="http://www.nobts.edu/prep">www.nobts.edu/prep</a>
Gatekeeper NOBTS news	<a href="mailto:pr@nobts.edu">pr@nobts.edu</a>	504.816.8003	<a href="http://nobtsgatekeeper.wordpress.com">nobtsgatekeeper.wordpress.com</a>
Information Technology Center	<a href="mailto:itcsupport@nobts.edu">itcsupport@nobts.edu</a>	504.816.8180	<a href="http://selfserve.nobts.edu">selfserve.nobts.edu</a>
Help with Blackboard	<a href="mailto:blackboardhelpdesk@nobts.edu">blackboardhelpdesk@nobts.edu</a>	504.816.8180	<a href="http://nobts.blackboard.com">nobts.blackboard.com</a>
Library	<a href="mailto:library@nobts.edu">library@nobts.edu</a>	504.816.8018	<a href="http://www.nobts.edu/Library">www.nobts.edu/Library</a>
Online library resources	<a href="mailto:library@nobts.edu">library@nobts.edu</a>	504.816.8018	<a href="http://www.nobts.edu/research-links/default.html">http://www.nobts.edu/research-links/default.html</a>
Writing and Turabian style help	<a href="mailto:library@nobts.edu">library@nobts.edu</a>	504.816.8018	<a href="http://www.nobts.edu/writing/default.html">http://www.nobts.edu/writing/default.html</a>
Guest Housing (Providence Guest House)	<a href="mailto:ph@nobts.edu">ph@nobts.edu</a>	504.282.4455 x4455	<a href="http://www.provhouse.com">www.provhouse.com</a>
Student Counseling	<a href="mailto:lmccc@nobts.edu">lmccc@nobts.edu</a>	504.816.8004	<a href="http://www.nobts.edu/student-services/counselingservices.html">www.nobts.edu/student-services/counselingservices.html</a>
Women's Programs	<a href="mailto:womensacademic@nobts.edu">womensacademic@nobts.edu</a>	504.282.4455 x3334	<a href="http://www.nobts.edu/women">www.nobts.edu/women</a>

For additional library resources in your state, check <http://www.nobts.edu/library/interlibrary-loan.html>

- GALILEO for Georgia students
- LALINC for Louisiana students
- Florida Virtual Library (<http://www.flelibrary.org/>) for Florida students
- Interact with us online at –



TWITTER.COM/NOBTS    INSTAGRAM.COM/NOBTS    FACEBOOK.COM/NOBTS