

DISC5171-04
SPIRITUAL FORMATION 2
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Pastoral Ministries
Spring 2015 * Wednesday * 9:00-9:50 AM

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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

PASTORAL MINISTRIES DIVISION MISSION STATEMENT

To prepare leaders by the development of the skills necessary for performing pastoral ministries, primarily within the context of the church, and to assist churches, organizations, and individuals through the gifts and skills of division members.

CORE VALUE FOCUS

Spiritual Vitality: We are a worshipping community emphasizing both personal spirituality and gathering together as a Seminary family for the praise and adoration of God and instruction in His Word.

CURRICULUM COMPETENCIES ADDRESSED

Spiritual and Character Development

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course is designed as a continuance of Spiritual Formation 1, fostering advanced personal spiritual growth, increased participation in the student discipleship group, and further skill development in leading discipleship groups ultimately impacting discipleship strategy in the local church and/or its ministries.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

In order to provide moral leadership by modeling and mentoring Christian character and devotion and in order to stimulate church health through mobilizing the church for discipleship, the student, by the end of the course, should:

1. Be able to apply the following concepts to providing moral leadership and stimulating church health:
 - The marks of a disciple as something beyond the point of salvation.
 - Effective methods of becoming a disciple and of making disciples.
 - The relationship between spiritual maturity and spiritual disciplines.
 - The variety of Christian devotional practices or disciplines.

2. Value the following concepts:
 - A lifelong intentional devotional discipline for lifelong spiritual growth and benefit to the kingdom of God.
 - A meaningful and maturing relationship with God.
 - Christian community in a small group setting.
 - A personal commitment to basic devotional practices.
 - A personal commitment to covenant marriage and personal holiness.

3. Be able to accomplish the following tasks:
 - Develop a plan for his/her own discipleship and assist others to develop a personal discipleship plan.
 - Practice appropriate disciplines of the Christian faith.

4. Be ready to lead small discipleship groups.

COURSE TEACHING METHODOLOGIES

Methodology will include reading/reflection on a text in the field through participation in group discussions; intense periods of personal spiritual preparation through the accountable exercising of *specific* habits, practices, and disciplines toward *desired outcomes*; identification, enlistment, and time spent with an accountability partner; reflections and journaling of the experience; and the use of an integration paper to capture the various exercises, ideas, and spiritual progress, and to reflect on God's involvement through the process.

TEXTBOOKS

If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat, John Ortberg
The Pursuit of God with Study Guide, A.W. Tozer
The Life You've Always Wanted, John Ortberg

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. The student will read *If You Want to Walk on Water* and lead a class discussion of one chapter as assigned by the professor.
2. The student will participate in all class discussions.
3. The student will design a Well-Ordered Heart Plan of Action (see Ortberg, *The Life You've Always Wanted*, chapter 12). The plan should address not more than 1-2 Christ-

- qualities the learner needs/seeks to develop in his/her life and not less than 3 spiritual disciplines that will be exercised to nurture these qualities. **DUE DATE: January 28.**
4. *After feedback from the professor*, the student will implement the Heart Plan of Action (see item 3) for a minimum of 12 weeks in covenant-community with learners from the Spiritual Formation group and under the watchful eye of an accountability partner.
 5. The student will journal her/his spiritual journey, reaction to ideas, experiences through exercises, conversations with God, and spiritual progress throughout the semester. The journal will be the learner's sole property and will not be turned in to the professor. The learner will, however, be held accountable for the fulfillment of this course expectation and will utilize the insights throughout the semester. This journaling is *not* to be considered as one of the spiritual disciplines used as part of the well-ordered heart plan.
 6. The student will identify and enlist an accountability partner who meets the requirements of "full of grace, wisdom, and the Holy Spirit." The partner should be at least one step ahead of the learner along the spiritual quest and should not be a spouse. The student will meet with the accountability partner for about 1 hour a week beginning the week of **February 8** and continuing through the **first week of May** (approximately 12 meetings). The student will provide the name of the accountability partner to the professor by **January 28.**
 7. The student will read *The Pursuit of God* and do a 2-3 page, double-spaced book report on it. **DUE DATE: April 15.**
 8. The student will design and prepare a 4-5 page, double-spaced, 1st person integration paper. The paper should allow the learner opportunity to reflect on the degree to which transformation has taken place in his/her life in the specific area(s) targeted (see item 3), the victories and challenges of practicing the selected disciplines (see item 3) and other insights pertinent to the spiritual quest that will be shared. **DUE DATE: May 6.**

COURSE READING/DISCUSSION SCHEDULE

January 21	Class Introduction/Course Syllabus
January 28	<i>If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat</i> , Chapter 1; HEART PLAN OF ACTION DUE
February 4	Chapter 2
February 11	Chapter 3
February 18	Chapter 4
February 25	Chapter 5
March 4	Chapter 6
March 11	Chapter 7
March 18	Chapter 8
March 25	SPRING BREAK
April 1	Chapter 9
April 8	Chapter 10
April 15	<i>The Pursuit of God</i> Discussion
April 22	<i>The Pursuit of God</i> Discussion
April 29	Summary Discussion
May 6	PAPER DUE

COURSE EVALUATION

<i>Well-Ordered Heart</i> Plan of Action, implementation, & accountability partner	35%
Journaling	15%
Weekly Reading/Participation	15%
Book Report	10%
Integration Paper	25%

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