



Effective Utilization of Small Groups
Professional Doctoral Seminar – CESE8310
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Fall Trimester, Oct 21-23, 2015

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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.

NOBTS Core Values and Core Value Focus

Doctrinal Integrity – Knowing that the Bible is the Word of God, we believe it, teach it, proclaim it, and submit to it. The doctrinal statements used in our evaluations are our Articles of Religious Belief and the Baptist Faith and Message Statement.

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

Mission Focus – We are not here merely to get an education or to give one. We are here to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

Characteristic Excellence – What we do, we do to the utmost of our abilities and resources as a testimony to the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Servant Leadership – We follow the model of Jesus and exert leadership and influence through the nurture and encouragement of those around us.

Annually, the President will designate a core value that will become the focus of pedagogy for the year. For 2015-2016 academic year the Core Value is *Mission Focus*.

Course Description

This Special Event seminar is held in conjunction with a selected conference focusing on small group ministry. Specific conference, locations and times vary by year. The purpose of this seminar is to expose the students to selected contemporary models for small group ministry. Small groups are the most authentic expression of what it is to be church. Some form of small group ministry is a common characteristic of the largest congregations outside the United States. The emerging focus of America's most influential congregations is that of small groups. Students in this seminar will seek to identify and apply transferable principles to their ministry setting. The clinical learning experience will also seek to improve a student's proficiency at utilizing data gleaned from church-based conferences.

Student Learning Outcomes

In order to serve churches effectively, by the end of the course, you should be able to:

1. Attend conferences, take appropriate notes, and assess the strategies of the seminar presenters in their small group ministry.
2. Evaluate the key components of the philosophy and principles of small group ministry utilized by the seminar presenters and their systemic relationship to the whole of the church.
3. Identify and analyze transferable concepts and their potential impact on the ministry setting of the student.
4. Identify and create a strategy to appropriately contextualize these transferable components into the ministry setting of the student.
5. Demonstrate mastery of principles for attending and evaluating ministry conferences.

Textbooks

Early, David and Rod Dempsey. *Disciplemaking Is: How to Live the Great Commission with Passion and Confidence*. Nashville: B & H Academic, 2013.

Gladden, Steve. *Small Groups with Purpose: How to Create Healthy Communities*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Books, 2011

Rick Howerton. *A Different Kind of Tribe: Embracing the New Small-Group Dynamic*, Colorado Springs, CO: Navpress, 2012

Mosley, Eddie. *Connecting in Communities: Understanding the Dynamics of Small Groups*. Colorado Springs, CO: Navpress. 2012

Putman, Jim and Bobby Harrington. *DiscipleShift: Five Steps That Help Your Church to Make Disciples Who Make Disciples*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2013.

Seminar Requirements

Conference Fee: In addition to tuition, course requires a \$39 *Xcelerate* Discipleship Conference fee. You will be registered for the conference and your student account will be assessed this fee with no exceptions allowed. Additional conference information and details will be available prior to the event. Details are available online at <http://www.nobts.edu/publications/xcelerate.html>.

Housing and Meals: All travel, room and extra meal costs are the responsibility of the student. You will be provided a link to make arrangements should you choose to take advantage of student discounts in Providence Guest House.

Blackboard Enrollment. Please enroll yourself in our class on Blackboard. Communication will be primarily through emails via Blackboard. Assignments will be posted and collected on Blackboard.

Instructions for enrolling in NOBTS Blackboard

You will find the instructions for enrolling in Blackboard on the Professional Doctoral Program website. <http://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/ProDoc/StudentMaterials>
Blackboard will be available on or before July 1, 2015

Before the Seminar

- 1. Critical Book Reviews:** You will read all the required textbooks and prepare a four-page Critical Review (double-spaced, Turabian form) for four (4) of them. You may omit either *Discipleship Is* or *Discipleshift*. The reviews should include the following: (1) bibliographic data; (2) a statement of the author's purpose; (3) a brief synopsis of the message of each section or chapter; (4) a critical analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of each section or chapter; (5) an evaluative assessment of the degree of success the author had in achieving the purpose, and (6) a discussion of potential application to your ministry context. **Due: Oct 15, 2015.**
- 2. Disciple-Making Interviews.** Interview three pastors, staff or ministry leaders to determine their experience in and strategy for disciple-making. Discover the history of their disciple-making journey and the strategy they currently pursue. Investigate how they are responding to the cultural changes in the American church field, especially related to making disciples. Submit a 4-5 page synopsis of your findings including at least one page of reaction and response to the interviews. **Due: October 1, 2015.**

During the seminar

- 3. Seminar Participation:** You are expected to attend the introductory session on Wednesday afternoon and be active participants in all sessions of the conference. Take thorough notes on all sessions attended in order to be able to save and organize them for future use. Note: The seminar actually begins with the receipt of the syllabus and

continues through the material completed after the three day component. The seminar does not consist only of the three day conference time component.

Following the seminar

4. **Annotated Bibliography.** You will prepare an annotated bibliography based upon the conference presentations. This bibliography will include at least ten (10) resources, (books, journal articles, blogsites, and curricula) that the student believes inform the issues that were raised in the conference. While it is not anticipated that students will read completely each work, a five to six sentence summary/analysis/critique should accompany each entry. **Due: November 6, 2015.**

5. **Reflection Paper.** Prepare and submit a 6 to 8 page Reflection Paper (double-spaced, typewritten, and in Turabian form) comparing and contrasting the issues raised in the conference. Include a reflection on the impact and implications of these issues for your current ministry setting. Include at least two key ideas or strategies that you will initiate in your ministry context. Include any necessary proper citations and a bibliography. **Due: November 20, 2015.**

Evaluation

Book Reviews (5 pts each)	20%
Interviews	15%
Attendance & Participation	30%
Annotated Bibliography	10%
Reflection Paper	25%

Selected Bibliography

- Anderson, Keith R. and Randy D. Reese. *Spiritual Mentoring: A Guide for Seeking and Giving Direction*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1999.
- Barna, George. *Growing True Disciples*. Ventura, CA: Issachar Resources, 2000.
- Bilezikian, Gilbert. *Community 101*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Corp., 1997.
- Boa, Kenneth. *Conformed to His Image*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001.
- Boren, M. Scott and Don Tillman. *Making Cell Groups Work: 8 Stages for Navigating the Transition to the Cell-Based Church*. Houston: Touch Publications, 2002.
- Cloud, Dr. Henry and Dr. John Townsend. *How People Grow: What the Bible Reveals About Personal Growth*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001.
- Coleman, Lyman. *Small Group Training Manual*. Littleton, CO: Serendipity, 1991.
- Donahue, Bill and Russ Robinson. *Building a Church of Small Groups*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001. ISBN 0310240352.
- Donahue, Bill. *Seven Deadly Sins of Small Group Ministry: Overcoming Barriers to Building a Church of Groups*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002.
- Donahue, Bill. *Leading Life-Changing Small Groups*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002.
- Early, David and Rod Dempsey. *Disciplemaking Is: How to Live the Great Commission with Passion and Confidence*. Nashville: B & H Academic, 2013.
- Eims, Leroy. *The Lost Art of Disciple Making*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1978.
- Fryling, Alice, ed. *The Disciplemakers' Handbook*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1989.
- George, Carl F. *Nine Keys to Effective Small Group Leadership*. Mansfield, PA: Kingdom Publishing, 2001.
- Goldsmith, Malcolm. *Knowing Me Knowing God: Exploring Your Spirituality With Myers-Briggs*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1997.
- Hahn, Todd and David Verhaagen. *Generation Xers After God*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1998.

- Hanks, Billie and William A. Shell, eds. *Discipleship: Great Insights from the Most Experienced Disciple Makers*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1993.
- Henderson, D. Michael. *John Wesley's Class Meeting: A Model for Making Disciples*. Nappanee, IN: Francis Asbury Press, 1997.
- Hendricks, Howard. *As Iron Sharpens Iron: Building Character in a Mentoring Relationship*. Chicago: Moody, 1999.
- Henrichsen, Walter A. *Disciples Are Made, Not Born*. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1974.
- Hull, Bill. *The Disciple-Making Church*. Grand Rapids: Fleming H. Revell, 1990.
- Icenogle, Gareth Weldom. *Biblical Foundation for Small Group Ministry*. Downer's Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1994.
- Kroeker, Wally. *Faith Dilemmas for Marketplace Christians: A Resource for Small Groups*. Scottsdale, PA: Herald Press, 1997
- Laurie, Greg. *Discipleship: The Next Step in Following Jesus*. Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 1999.
- Malphurs, Aubrey. *Strategy 2000: Churches Making Disciples for the Next Millennium*. Grand Rapids: Kregel Resources, 1996.
- Mancini, Will. *Innovating Discipleship: Four Paths to Real Discipleship Results (Church Unique Intentional Leader Series)*. Lexington, KY: CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2013.
- Morton, Scott. *Down to Earth Discipling*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2003.
- Neighbour, Ralph. *Where Do We Go From Here?*, 2nd edition. Houston: Touch Outreach Ministries, 2000. ISBN 1880828170.
- Nicholas, Ron. *Good Things Come in Small Groups*. Downer's Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1985.
- Ortberg, John. *The Life You've Always Wanted*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1997.

- Parr, Steve. *The Coffee Shop that Changed a Church: Discovering the Net Effect*. Sisters Oregon: Deep River Books, 2014
- Peace, Richard and Thom Corrigan. *Learning to Care: Developing Community in Small Groups*. Colorado Springs: Pilgrimage NavPress, 1996.
- Pope, Randy. *Insourcing: Bringing Discipleship Back to the Local Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2013.
- Putman, Jim and Bobby Harrington. *DiscipleShift: Five Steps That Help Your Church to Make Disciples Who Make Disciples*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2013.
- Scazzero, Peter. *The Emotionally Healthy Church: A Strategy for Discipleship that Actually Changes Lives*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003.
- Small Group Leader's Handbook: The Next Generation*. Downer's Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1995.
- Stockstill, Larry. *The Cell Church*. Ventura, CA: Regal, 2000.
- Willard, Dallas. *Renovation of the Heart: Putting On The Character of Christ*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2002.
- EWright, N.T. *Following Jesus: Biblical Reflections on Discipleship*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997.