

EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLESHIP IN THE MODERN WORLD

THE MOODY BIBLE INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

I. COURSE INFORMATION:

Course Sessions (Online): Thursdays, April 30 – June 18, 2020

7:00–8:30pm (Central Standard Time)

Direct Link to Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/93496961908>

Password: Evangelism

Course Landing Page: <https://portal.moody.edu/cgte/certificate-in-christian-ministry/evangelism-and-discipleship-in-the-modern-world/>

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II. COURSE DESCRIPTION :

The course will introduce discipleship as a relationally-driven form of mentorship or Christian spiritual direction. Following this course, students will be prepared to provide mentorship for new believers.

III. OBJECTIVES:

- ❖ We will study in detail the model of evangelism and discipleship that Jesus transmitted to his disciples.
- ❖ We will examine and discuss the New Testament account of Jesus' pursuit after God, his pursuit of life here and hereafter, and what this means for our lives today.
- ❖ We will identify and illustrate the resources which gave Jesus direction and strength to his redeeming work in the world.
- ❖ We will reflect upon and communicate our own spiritual journeys in light of Jesus' message of good news.

IV. PROCEDURES:

Online Class Periods: Class periods will be conducted as online conference calls, each of which will be 90 minutes in length total, including a 10-minute break.

Video Recordings: Class periods will be video recorded, and these video recordings will be distributed to the students via the cohort landing page. The video recordings are not intended to serve as independent educational resources; rather, the video recordings are created so that students may review any class periods from which they are absent and may thereby remain fully integrated in online class periods.

V. TEXTBOOK (FOR PURCHASE):

Coleman, Robert C. *The Master Plan of Evangelism*. Second Edition. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1993.

VI. CLASS SCHEDULE:

Date:	Place and Time:	Subject:	Readings:	Assignments:
Thursday, April 30, 2020	Online, 7:00– 8:30pm (CST)	Selection	Mark 1 & 2; Coleman, Chapter 1	Weekly Spiritual Journal
Thursday, May 7, 2020	Online, 7:00– 8:30pm (CST)	Association	Mark 3 & 4; Coleman, Chapter 2	Weekly Spiritual Journal
Thursday, May 14, 2020	Online, 7:00– 8:30pm (CST)	Consecration	Mark 5 & 6; Coleman, Chapter 3	Weekly Spiritual Journal
Thursday, May 21, 2020	Online, 7:00– 8:30pm (CST)	Impartation	Mark 7 & 8; Coleman, Chapter 4	Weekly Spiritual Journal
Thursday, May 28, 2020	Online, 7:00– 8:30pm (CST)	Demonstration	Mark 9 & 10; Coleman, Chapter 5	Weekly Spiritual Journal

Thursday, June 4, 2020	Online, 7:00– 8:30pm (CST)	Delegation	Mark 11 & 12; Coleman, Chapter 6	Weekly Spiritual Journal
Thursday, June 11, 2020	Online, 7:00– 8:30pm (CST)	Supervision	Mark 13 & 14: Coleman, Chapter 7	Weekly Spiritual Journal
Thursday, June 18, 2020	Online, 7:00– 8:30pm (CST)	Reproduction	Mark 15 & 16; Coleman, Chapter 8	Weekly Spiritual Journal & Your Spiritual Journey Story

VII. ASSIGNMENTS:

- A. *Attendance*: In the case that a student is not able to be present for a class period, we recommend that (1) the student notify the class facilitator by email concerning the absence and (2) the student review the video recording of the class period prior to the next class period.
- B. *Reading*: There are reading assignments for each of the eight class periods. Students are expected to read the assigned sections of the Gospel of Mark and of the textbook prior to the start of the class for which they are assigned.
- C. *Weekly Class Discussions*: We will discuss our Gospel of Mark and The Master Plan of Evangelism reading each week. Students will be expected to be ready to participate and contribute to these class discussions.
- D. *Project*: Weekly Discipleship Journal & Your Spiritual Journey Story

Weekly Discipleship Journal

Following Jesus involves a journey. The original Christian disciples embarked on such a journey. In a specific and condensed way, this course is a journey with Jesus across eight weeks together. In order to capture understandings, insights, and reflections along the way, a weekly journal will be written and then submitted at the end of this course—with the addition of your spiritual journey story (in other words, your personal testimony).

The spiritual journal experience will be framed with two sections each week:

- “Learning from Jesus”—through the Gospel according to Mark
- “Reflecting on current relationships”—in which you find yourself across these weeks

In the “Learning from Jesus” journal section, please use the three questions highlighted in the following passage from J.I. Packer:

“There is something narcissistic and, to tell the truth, nutty in being more concerned about godliness than about God. As it would not be nice to care more for our marriage than for the partner we have promised to love, honor, and cherish, so it is not nice to care more for our religion than for the God whom we are called to praise and please every day of our lives....

When approaching any biblical passage, I have found it good to ask first what it shows me about God, second what it shows me about human life here and hereafter, and only then, as my third question, what it says to me about my life today.”

(J.I. Packer, *Meeting God*, 2001, Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, p. 5)

The pattern each week will involve reading from the Gospel of Mark and asking these three questions:

- 1) What does this passage show me about God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit)?
- 2) What does this passage show me about life here and hereafter?
- 3) What does this passage say to me about my life today?

In the “Reflecting on current relationships” journal section, please use the following grid drawn from Howard & William Hendricks’ book *As Iron Sharpens Iron*:

- A Paul, someone older who can build into your life
- A Barnabas, a peer, a soulmate to whom you can be accountable
- A Timothy, someone younger into whose life you can build

(Hendricks & Hendricks, *As Iron Sharpens Iron*, 1995, Chicago, IL: Moody Press, p. 78)

Your life and ministry context may provide all three types of relationships. You may also find people who match these roles across different circles of your relationships. During some seasons, there may not be a clear example in each category (Paul, Barnabas, Timothy). In any case, be thankful for whomever the Lord allows you to share a certain part of your journey. During these weeks, please keep regular journal entries related to what you are receiving and sharing back and forth in your Barnabas, Paul, and/or Timothy relationships.

If you would like to receive more input about the discipline of spiritual journaling, please read Donald Whitney's chapter titled "Journaling... For the Purpose of Godliness" from *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*, which is available on the landing page of this course. (Donald Whitney, *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*, 1991, Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, pp. 195–211).

The combined "Learning from Jesus" and "Reflecting on current relationships" weekly journal entries should be 250–400 words each week, and will be submitted together at the end of the course. Therefore, you will have flexibility and, if need be, can play some catch up if a week becomes especially full for you.

Weekly Discipleship Journal Steps

1. Please read the specific chapters of the Gospel of Mark (two chapters per week) as indicated in this "Class Schedule" section of the course syllabus.

2. In the "Learning from Jesus" section, please respond to these three questions:

What does this passage show me about God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit)?

What does this passage show me about life here and hereafter?

What does this passage say to me about my life today?

3. In the "Reflecting on current relationships" section, please keep regular journal entries related to what you are receiving and sharing back and forth in your Barnabas, Paul, and/or Timothy relationships (as described above and including the small group discussions that are part of this course).

4. The combined "Learning from Jesus" and "Reflecting on current relationships" journal entries should be 250–400 words each week.

5. Please write up your "Weekly Discipleship Journal & Your Spiritual Journey Story" (second part of assignment described in more detail below) as a Microsoft Word document and submit it following the conclusion of the course.

Your Spiritual Journey Story

In the New Testament Book of Acts alone, the Apostle Paul shared repeatedly about the difference that meeting Jesus made in his life (Acts 9, 22, and 26).

How can your spiritual story be told using a framework of before, how, and after you came to faith in Jesus Christ?

Please know that coming to faith in Jesus is not the end of a story. Instead, faith opens up a new story that God continues writing on your heart and through your life across your days on earth.

For this part of your closing assignment, please write your spiritual story in 400–500 words, being sure to include before, how, and after sections.

Please know that the fact that you are taking this course, the topic of your spiritual story is all the more likely to come up in some conversation. God may be preparing you and other people for such occasions even now.

The Navigators provide a number of evangelism and discipleship resources. One of their resources is titled *Telling His Story by Telling Yours*. In a webpage corresponding to this resource, the Navigators offer some practical tips that may serve you and others:

“As Christians, each and every one of us has a testimony—a story of the way that Christ has worked in our lives. Regardless of your background or past, God wants to use the stories of both hardship and victory in our lives to transform the lives of those around us. It is truly beautiful how He can redeem even the most difficult parts of our lives and use them to impact others for the Kingdom. By telling your story, you truly are telling His story!”

Telling His Story by Telling Yours is a helpful Navigator resource that provides you with an easy-to-use template for using your own story to tell others about Jesus. Below is a brief excerpt of practical tips for sharing your story.

Live your life.

Go out of your way to show dignity to others.

Be alert for opportunities to go deeper with them.

Listen well.

Share your story, but leave room for conversation.

Stop telling your story when it leads into other people telling theirs.

Enter into their story.

Share truth, but don't be concerned if you can't get into the whole thing yet.

<https://www.navigators.org/resource/telling-his-story-by-telling-yours/>

Your Spiritual Story Steps

1. Reflect on your spiritual story.
2. Please write your spiritual story in 400–500 words, being sure to include sections regarding before you put your faith in Jesus, how you came to faith in Jesus, and after you came to faith.
3. Please include both your “Weekly Discipleship Journal & Your Spiritual Journey Story” together in a Microsoft Word document, and submit it following the conclusion of the course.”
4. Please save an electronic copy of this document for your own personal files.

VIII. BIBLIOGRAPHY (FOR REFERENCE):

Evangelism Resources:

Chan, Sam. *Evangelism in a Skeptical World: How to Make the Unbelievable News about Jesus More Believable*. Grand Rapids: MI: Zondervan, 2018.

Coleman, Robert E. *The Master’s Way of Personal Evangelism*. Wheaton, IL: 1997.

Cosper, Mike. *The Stories We Tell: How TV and Movies Long for and Echo the Truth*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2014.

Dodson, Jonathan K. *The unbelievable gospel: Say something worth believing*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2014.

Harney, Kevin G. *Organic Outreach for Ordinary People: Sharing Good News Naturally*. Grand Rapids, MI: 2009.

Hunter III, George G. *The Celtic Way of Evangelism: How Christianity Can Reach the West... Again*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2000.

Johnson, Jeffrey A., and Patricia Duckworth (Ed.). *Got Style?: Personality-based Evangelism*. Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press, 2009.

Maschhoff, Joe. *Telling His Story by Telling Yours*. Colorado Spring, CO: NavPress, 2013.

McDowell, Josh D., and McDowell, Sean. *More Than a Carpenter: His story might change*

- yours*. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale Momentum, 2009.
- Mead, Peter. *Foundations: Four Big Questions We Should Be Asking But Typically Don't*. Ross-shire, Scotland: Christian Focus, 2015.
- Murray, Abdu. *Saving Truth: Finding Meaning and Clarity in a Post-Truth World*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018.
- Newman, Randy. *Questioning Evangelism: Engaging people's hearts the way Jesus Did*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel, 2017.
- Packer, J.I. *Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2008.
- Schaller, Mary, & Crilly, John. *The 9 Arts of Spiritual Conversations: Walking alongside people who believe differently*. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale Momentum, 2016.
- Strobel, Lee. *The Case For Christ: A Journalist's Personal Investigation of the Evidence for Jesus*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1998.
- The Case for Christ: One Man's Journey To Solve The Biggest Mystery Of All Time*, directed by Jon Gunn (2017; Universal City, CA: Universal Pictures Home Entertainment, 2017), DVD.
- Vanderstelt, Jeff. *Gospel Fluency: Speaking the Truths of Jesus into the Everyday Stuff of Life*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2017.
- Washer, Paul. *The Gospel of Jesus Christ*. Grand Rapids, MI: Reformation Heritage Books, 2016.
- Yancey, Philip. *The Jesus I Never Knew*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2002.

Discipleship Resources:

- Blackaby, Henry & Richard, & King, Claude. *Fresh Encounter: God's Pattern for Spiritual Awakening*. Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group, 2009.
- Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *The Cost of Discipleship*. New York, NY: Touchstone, 1995.
- Coleman, Robert E. *The Master Plan of Discipleship*. Grand Rapids, MI: Fleming H. Revell, 1997.
- Coleman, Robert E. *The Mind of the Master*. Shippensburg, PA: Destiny Image Publishers, 2016.
- Comiskey, Joel. *The Relational Disciple: How God Uses Community to Shape Followers of Jesus*. Moreno Valley, CA: CCS Publishing, 2010.
- Fernando, Ajith. *Jesus Driven Ministry*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2002.
- Harrington, Bobby, & Patrick, Josh. *The Disciple Maker's Handbook: 7 Elements of a Discipleship Lifestyle*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2017.
- Hendricks, Howard & William. *As Iron Sharpens Iron: Building Character In A Mentoring Relationship*. Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1999.
- Hull, Bill. *The Complete Book of Discipleship: On Being and Making Followers of Christ*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2006.
- Keller, Timothy. *Center Church: Doing balanced, Gospel-centered ministry in your city*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2012.
- Kuravackal, Justin, Meysenburg, Abe, Vanderstelt, Jeff, & Watson, Brad. *Growing in Christ Together: A 16-Week Discipleship Journey*. Bellevue, WA: Saturate Publishing, 2018. [possible discipleship study guide]
- Malphurs, Aubrey. *Strategic Disciple Making: A Practical Tool for Successful Ministry*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2009.
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- Ogden, Greg. *Transforming Discipleship: Making Disciples a Few at a Time*. Downers Grove, IL: 2016.
- Orr, J. Edwin. *The Role of Prayer in Spiritual Awakening*, directed by Bill Bright (1776, Garden Grove, CA: Randolph Productions, 2006), DVD.
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- Spader, Dann. *4 Chair Discipling: Growing a Movement of Disciple-Makers*. Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 2014.
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- Whitney, Donald. *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2014.
- Wilson, Jared. *The Gospel-Driven Church: Uniting Church Growth Dreams with the Metrics of Grace*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2019.
- Wilson, Todd. *More: Find Your Personal Calling and Live Life to the Fullest Measure*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2016.