Cottonwood Creek Ministry Academy

Discipleship Course, 2022–2023

**Description**

The Ministry Academy at Cottonwood Creek Church’s one-year training program is designed to “equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ” (Ephesians 4:12). Each student will have the opportunity to learn who God is through His Word so that the body of Christ may be strengthened.

**Goal**

Our desire at the Ministry Academy is to bridge the gap between seminary and the local church by providing theological training in the context of the local body of Christ. By teaching theology through each book of the Bible, we hope that each student will apply these truths in ministry all around the church. Through large group teaching, small group discussion, reading, writing, and Saturday seminars each student will:

* Read through and know the whole story of Scripture.
* Gain an understanding of both the purpose and practice of Christian theology.
* Be a closer follower of Jesus Christ.
* Be transformed by God’s call on their lives to know Him and be obedient to Him.
* Learn how to communicate the Bible and theology.
* Learn God’s heart for and respond to the Great Commission.
* Be commissioned to serve the church well.

**Cost**

$150/semester ($300 for the year)

The cost covers all of the books for the discipleship course, a Study Bible, honorariums for guest speakers, and each Saturday seminar. Contact us if you need financial assistance.

**Attendance (In-Person & Online)**

In any given week, a student can attend either in-person or online. Each lecture will be recorded for the purpose of making up or revisiting any of the content discussed.

**Discipleship Challenges**

*You get out of the course what you put into the course!* A certificate is earned by completing the attendance requirements, but we highly encourage you to do as many of the following “discipleship challenges” as possible (push yourself in discipleship!):

**Challenge #1: Serving**

Put their knowledge to action by serving at least 18 hours in the local church. There are a lot of ways to do this! Feel free to ask if you need ideas for how to serve.

**Challenge #2: Read through the Bible**

We will provide a Bible Reading Plan for the Fall and Spring Semesters so that you can read through the entire Bible over the course of these 10-months!

**Challenge #3: Attend the Seminars**

Once each semester there will be a Saturday seminar (8a-5p). The seminars will include a special guest lecturer (academically qualified) in a specific and specialized field pertinent to the semester’s focus. Lunch and snacks will be provided for all students.

**Challenge #4: Read the Provided Books**

Each student will be asked to read two books each semester (4 books total). These books will be provided for you at the beginning of the course and covered in your tuition price:

**Fall**

* *The Drama of Scripture* by Craig Bartholomew and Michael Goheen
* *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life* by Donald Whitney

**Spring**

* *Knowing God* by J. I. Packer
* *The Pursuit of Holiness* by Jerry Bridges

**Challenge #5: Memorize Scripture**

“I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you” (Ps 119:11). We will provide a selection of verses/passages over the course of the program to memorize in conjunction with the Fall and Spring content emphases.

**Challenge #6: Disciple Someone else!**

Walk with someone else by teaching them what you are learning! Not only is this one of the best ways to learn, but this is a great way to disciple someone else.

**Challenge #7: Discipleship Projects**

Complete one project each semester:

* **Fall: The Story of Scripture**
	+ Each student will write (500-800 words) and share (no notes or reading!) a summary of the whole story of Scripture, with Scripture references throughout. This can be written in paragraph form or bulleted and will be shared in their cohorts. Due at the end of the Fall Semester.
* **Spring: Gospel Presentation**
	+ Each student will write (500-800 words) and share (no notes or reading!) an original Gospel Presentation that will include a minimum of four Scripture passages. This can be written in paragraph form or bulleted and will be shared in their cohorts. Due at the end of the Spring Semester.

**Schedule:**

Wednesday evenings, from 6:30p–8:30p in A234.

**Fall Semester Schedule:**

* August 17th
	+ Introduction to the Program
	+ Defining Terms: Theology, Discipleship, Ministry, Worship
* August 24th
	+ Reading, Studying and Understanding the Bible
	+ The Bible as Canon
* August 31st
	+ Approaching the Old Testament
	+ Creator and Creation
* September 7th
	+ Creator and Creation (Continued)
	+ The Image of God and The First Temple
* September 14th
	+ The Fall and the Effects of the Fall
* September 21st
	+ Theology of Sin, Angels, Demons and Satan
	+ The Beginnings of the Nation of Israel
		- Abrahamic Covenant
* September 28th
	+ The Formation of Israel
	+ The Call of Moses and the Plagues on Egypt
* October 5th
	+ The Exodus and the Passover
	+ The 10 Commandments and the Mosaic Covenant
* October 12th
	+ The Law, the Tabernacle and the Sacrificial System
* October 19th
	+ The Remainder of the Pentateuch
* October 26th
	+ The History of Israel: Conquest and Judges
* November 2nd
	+ The History of Israel: Remnant and Monarchy
	+ Davidic Covenant
* November 9th
	+ The History of Israel: The Split, Decline, and Defeat
* November 16th
	+ Understanding the Messages of the Major Prophets
* November 23rd – OFF (THANKSGIVING)
* November 30th
	+ Understanding the Messages of the Minor Prophets
* December 7th
	+ Learning Wisdom and Worship: The Writings
* December 14th
	+ FLEX - The Coming Messiah, The Promise of the New Covenant
	+ Christmas Potluck!

**CHRISTMAS BREAK – No class December 21st or December 28th**

**Spring Semester Schedule:**

* January 4th
	+ The Context of the New Testament
	+ Approaching the New Testament
* January 11th
	+ The Birth of Christ: Jesus as God and Man
* January 18th
	+ The Message of Christ: The Kingdom of God
* January 25th
	+ The Life and Ministry of Christ: From Baptism to Resurrection
* February 1st
	+ The Work of Christ: Atonement
* February 8th
	+ The Work of Christ: Resurrection and Ascension
* February 15th
	+ The Work of the Holy Spirit and Salvation (pt. 1)
* February 22nd
	+ The Work of the Holy Spirit and Salvation (pt. 2)
* March 1st
	+ The Work of the Holy Spirit and Sanctification
* March 8th – OFF (SPRING BREAK)
* March 15th
	+ The Early Church and the Evangelistic Mission
* March 29th
	+ The Nature of the Church
* April 5th
	+ The Practice of the Church
* April 12th
	+ FLEX and Catch-up
* April 19th
	+ Learning to Read the Letters
* April 26th
	+ Studying the Bible Workshop
* May 3rd
	+ Studying the Last Things: Eschatology (pt. 1)
* May 10th
	+ Studying the Last Things: Eschatology (pt. 2)
* May 17th
	+ Graduation Celebration

**Interested in Seminary Credit?**

In addition to the discipleship/certificate path of the Ministry Academy, our program offers an opportunity for seminary level credit. In addition to all of the “Discipleship Challenges” turning into “Requirements,” here are some of the additional expectations:

**Attendance:**

* Students are expected to attend all class sessions unless hindered by illness or emergency. In order to complete the program and receive certification, students can only miss 2 classes per semester, and MUST attend the Saturday seminar in full.

**Registration:**

* At the beginning of the course, students in the seminary path will indicate at the start of the MA which courses they wish to complete. They can pursue the remaining MA course offerings at the disciple level if desired.

**Workload:**

* In addition to attending Wednesday class sessions, students will be expected to complete reading assignments and writing projects as part of their course work. The workload of each course is equivalent to a 3-hour, master’s level class. See the “Seminary Syllabus” on our web page for more details.
* On average, students will be expected to complete about 900 pages of assigned reading and about 14 pages of writing assignments for every 3 hour course in which they are enrolled.

**Service Requirements:**

* Service is a crucial part of the Ministry Academy’s course of study. Students will be expected to complete 18 service hours a semester, for a total of 36 hours during the time in the program. This is in addition to class time on Wednesday evening.
* Students who do not meet all of the service requirements **WILL NOT** be eligible for transfer credit into a partner school.

**Transfer Credit:**

Upon successful completion of the Seminary Path of the Cottonwood Creek Ministry Academy (MA), students will be given a certificate of completion which they can use in order to gain transfer credit into one of our partner institutions. Students should be aware of the following details:

* In order to gain transfer credit, students must first apply and be accepted to the school from whom they wish to receive credit. Application to each partner school will follow that school’s typical admittance procedures – the MA will have no involvement in the student’s application or acceptance into partner institutions for the purpose of transfer credit.
* In most academic institutions, transfer credit is not re-transferable. If your intention is to transfer credit from MA to school A, with the eventual goal of moving from school A to school B, your MA credits may not transfer. Students will need to discuss any potential credit transfer issues with MA administration and with the Registrar of the school of their choice.
* Transfer credit opportunities from MA to seminaries or other schools only exist within the scope of MA’s partnership with each of these institutions. Students should not request transfer credit from a non-partner institution. If you would like to recommend an additional academic partner for MA, please contact MA leadership.
* Ministry Academy has partnerships with several accredited institutions for specific questions please email: beau.landers@cottonwoodcreek.org