

15800 Calvary Road
Kansas City, MO 64147-1341

Course: MS231DDN Discipleship of Children and Families (Blended)

Credit: 2 hours

Semester: Fall 2020

Dates: Cycle 2: August 17 - October 9

Time: 1:00 – 3:15 p.m., Wednesdays

Location: EED120

Instructor: Shaun LePage, ThM, shaun.lepage@calvary.edu, (office) 816-768-6971, (mobile) 785-840-8568

I. DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE

An in-depth study of the nature and discipleship needs of children and their families. Objectives, methods, materials, and special-emphasis areas of the discipleship ministries of children and their families will be studied.

This is a blended class, meaning that both campus and online students take this class together. Campus students attend the classes in person, online students attend the classes via the online classroom. All interaction and assignments for campus and online students are done in the online classroom.

II. OBJECTIVES

A. General competencies to be achieved.

1. Develop a biblical theology and strategy for the discipleship of children and families. (PLO*-1-5)(A**-A,B,C,D)
2. Develop an appreciation of specific Christian discipleship ministries to children and families. (PLO-2)(A-B,D)

B. Specific competencies to be achieved.

1. Interact with the assigned reading to shape a personal philosophy regarding discipleship of young people. (PLO-1)(A-C)
2. Glean from those in ministries that disciple teenagers through interviews and observation. (PLO-2,5)(A-D)

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3. Develop a plan to disciple teenagers. (PLO-5)(A-A,D)
4. Evaluate youth ministry discipleship curriculums. (PLO-2,5)(A-A,D)
5. Discuss, share and learn from one another. (PLO-2,3,4)(A-A,D)

II. TEXTBOOKS:

A. Required:

1. English Bible (NAS, NASB-U, NKJV, NET, ESV, or other by approval).
 - a) The Bible is a required textbook in every course at Calvary University.
 - b) To facilitate academic level study, students are required to use for assignments and research an English translation or version of the Bible based on formal equivalence (*meaning that the translation is generally word-for-word from the original languages*), including any of the following: New American Standard (NASB, English Standard Version (ESV), New King James (NKJV), or King James (KJV). Other translations and versions based on dynamic equivalence (*paraphrases, and thought-for-thought translations like NLT and NIV*) may be used as supplemental sources. Please ask the professor if you have questions about a particular translation or version.
2. *From Here to Maturity: Overcoming the Juvenilization of American Christianity* by Thomas E. Bergler. Grand Rapids. Eerdmans, 2014. ISBN 9780802869449. Retail: \$20.00.

B. Recommended:

1. *Family Driven Faith* by Voddie T. Baucham, Jr. Crossway, 2007, ISBN 978-1581349290, Cost: \$7.91.
2. *Deep Ministry in a Shallow World* by Chap Clark and Kara Powell. Grand Rapids. Zondervan, 2006. ISBN 978-0310267072. Retail: \$17.99.
3. *First Principles Series* by Jeff Reed, 2014, only available through <https://store.bild.org>, BILD International, complete series of 14 books \$100, \$9 per individual booklet.
4. *The Paradigm Papers* by Jeff Reed, 2014, only available through <https://store.bild.org>, 2017, BILD International, \$25.

III. ASSIGNMENTS

- A. **Textbook Responses (250 points)**. Students will read the assigned textbook (Bergler) and articles assigned by the instructor, then write weekly two (2) page responses to questions about the reading provided via Canvas.
- B. **Quizzes (200 points)**. Weekly, online quizzes will be given on classroom lectures and discussion.

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- C. **Interviews (250 points)**. Students will interview three local church leaders (preferably of different sized churches) and write a paper to analyze observations.
1. Part 1: During the second week of the cycle, students will provide the names, ministries and contact information of the children's ministry leaders to be interviewed. The student may not interview himself or herself, and must choose local church leaders who currently work in a ministry involved in the discipleship of children and families.
 2. Part 2: Students will develop a list of 25 questions related to the discipleship of children and families to prepare for the interviews. Questions must focus on specific strategies and methodologies for the discipleship of children and families.
 3. Part 3: Student will interview local church leaders in person, or via online conference call, then write a 10-page paper in two parts (each part about 5 pages): 1) The answers and perspective of the children's ministry leaders interviewed, and 2) analysis of the issues raised through the interview—does the student agree or disagree with the leaders' perspectives on the issues raised, and why?
- D. **Discipleship Plan and Presentation (300 points)**. Create a 7-year Discipleship Plan for Children and Families.
1. Part 1: Statement of Discipleship Philosophy. Student will write a three-page paper answering two primary questions: 1) Why is discipleship for children and families important? and 2) How will you do discipleship ministry? Answers should be supported by Scripture (chapter and verse references), explaining how passages referenced serve to answer the questions. This paper will serve as the foundation for discipleship ministry.
 2. Part 2: Core Elements. Student will write a three-page paper listing and explaining the core elements of a discipleship ministry for children and families (e.g., teaching, relationships, experiences, mentoring, etc.).
 3. Part 3: Discipleship Plan. Student will create a spreadsheet, a chart, or some other tool to map out a practical and specific 7-year plan for the discipleship of children and families. The student is encouraged to be creative, must include Parts 1 and 2, and a reasonable amount of detail (e.g., First through third grades, September 1-October 30: Study of the gospel message, recommendations for ways parents can share the gospel message with their children; learning objectives for studying the gospel message, etc.).
 4. Part 4: Present Plan in class. Student will present a 7-year Discipleship Plan for Children and Families as though they were candidating for a ministry position at a local church, explaining to parents and church leadership how you will approach the discipleship of children and families including a general strategy and plan. The student is encouraged to utilize Powerpoint or some other type of presentation tool to accomplish the main goal of clarity.

IV. GRADING

A. 1,000 Points Possible from Assignments

1. Assignment A: Textbook Responses (250 points).

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2. Assignment B: Quizzes (200 points)
3. Assignment C: Interviews (250 points)
4. Assignment D: Discipleship Plan and Presentation (300 points)
5. Extra Credit: The student may also receive 1 extra credit point for every verse (up to 20 verses) recited from memory from the Bible.

B. Points and Final Grade

1. 930-1000 points = A
2. 900-929 points = A-
3. 870-899 points = B+
4. 830-869 points = B
5. 800-829 points = B-
6. 770-799 points = C+
7. 730-769 points = C
8. 700-729 points = C-
9. 670-699 points = D+
10. 630-669 points = D
11. 600-629 points = D-
12. 0-559 points = F

II. TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

- A. Week 1: Introduction to Course; Read Preface of *The Juvenilization of American Christianity* (in Canvas).
- B. Week 2: Discussion of reading; Discipleship through the Lens of Scripture, Part 1; Read Preface and Chapter 1 of *From Here to Maturity*.
- C. Week 3: Discussion of reading; Discipleship through the Lens of Scripture, Part 2; ; Read Chapter 2 of *From Here to Maturity*.
- D. Week 4: Discussion of reading; Discipleship through the Lens of Scripture, Part 3; Read Preface and Chapter 3 of *From Here to Maturity*.
- E. Week 5: Discussion of reading; Youth Ministry through the Lens of History and Culture; Read Preface and Chapter 4 of *From Here to Maturity*.
- F. Week 6: Discussion of reading; Discipleship of Youth: Strategies and Resources; Read Preface and Chapter 5 and Appendixes of *From Here to Maturity*.

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- G. Week 7: Discussion of reading; Course Overview and Conclusions; Read Steve Kemp review of “Juvenilization of American Christianity”.
- H. Week 8: Discussion of reading; Final Project Due, Student Presentations Given.

III. NOTES

- A. * PLO = Program Learning Objectives (see Calvary University Catalog, p.142)
- B. ** A = Assignments; showing how the assignments for this course are directly linked to the objectives.
- C. All written assignments must follow Turabian style — title page, footnotes and bibliography. See the “Clark Academic Center” page on the CU website for a “Turabian Help” (<https://www.calvary.edu/clark-academic-center/>).
- D. Punctual reading and writing will allow the student to get the most out of the course.
- E. Late assignments could result in grade penalties unless the professor is made aware of a ministry commitment or an emergency beyond the student’s control.
- F. About Disabilities: Students with disabilities have the responsibility of informing the DSS Director (dss@calvary.edu) of any disabling condition that may require support.
- G. About Assistance for All Course Assignments: The Clark Academic Center (learning@calvary.edu) is dedicated to providing free academic assistance for all CU students. Student tutors aid with all facets of the writing process, tutor in various subject areas, prepare students for exams, and facilitate tests. Please take advantage of this service.
- H. About Changes to this Syllabus: The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus at any time during the course, but any changes made will only be done after clearly communicating the need for the change and the specific change to be made via in-class announcement and Canvas announcement.
- I. About Plagiarism: Plagiarism is defined as copying any part of a book or paper without identifying that source. This also includes taking another person’s ideas and presenting them as your own without identifying the source. Any assignment that includes plagiarism will receive a zero (0) grade.