



SESSION
TWO

STUDENT EDITION

GLOBAL CHURCH TRAINING CURRICULUM

Billion Soul Network® | Global Church Learning Center®

Global Church Training Curriculum

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Editor and Developer: Robin MacIntosh

Robin MacIntosh serves on staff at Grace Fellowship of Four Corners, an interdenominational church plant in the Orlando, Florida area. She received her M.A. in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) from the School for International Training (SIT) Graduate Institute in Brattleboro, Vermont. Her experience includes writing curricula for students from a variety of cultural, professional, and educational backgrounds.



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THE GLOBAL CHURCH TRAINING CURRICULUM

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- 3. Strong Families *by Paul Cole and Joann Cole Webster***
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INTRODUCTION

You hold in your hands the very first Global Church Training Curriculum. It represents the circumference of Christianity in the twenty-first century. The Gospel that has been sent to the four corners of the earth has now come back to the places where it originally was sent out. The mission field has become a mission force. We are witnessing an unparalleled move of God throughout all the nations of the world. Truly, these are the greatest days of Gospel advancement and Kingdom establishment since Jesus Christ came out of the grave more than two thousand years ago.

In January of 2002, the Billion Soul Network was launched in Orlando, Florida. More than five thousand pastors and leaders came from all fifty states, every province in Canada, and more than twenty nations around the world. We established a God-sized goal to help plant five million new churches for a billion soul harvest in our generation. The spine of this vision was to pull together the finest teachers and training and make it available worldwide through Internet technological devices. We said that this training must be online, on-ground, and on-time! We are watching today as that vision is becoming a reality. I remember, as if it were yesterday, sitting in the back of a Bangkok city bus with several U.S. pastor friends. We were watching a choppy video, *Red Sky in the Morning*, by the late Dr. Bill Bright, on a PalmPilot handheld device. At that moment I heard the Holy Spirit whisper to me, “They will study like this one day.”

As the Billion Soul Network was launched, it was released and unfolded in several different phases. The first phase is what we called the **Discovery Phase**. Dr. Elmer Towns, cofounder of Liberty University and dean of the Global Church Learning Center, has often said, “You’ll never know something new until you learn something new.” When we think of synergy being the summation of all the parts having greater value than its individual parts, we think of this in terms of the global nature of the Body of Christ. We decided to go out and host Billion Soul Summits in every major world region. More than ten thousand leaders joined us in these summits. Leaders were not invited to participate in the summits unless there were at least fifty pastors or churches underneath them. We chose not to just have summits for the sake of having meetings; rather, we invited decision makers to come so that real synergy and strategy could be developed. At Billion Soul we often say, “If your movement is not moving, it is not a movement. It’s a monument.”

On the heels of the discovery phase came the **Development Phase**. In the development phase we began to listen to key men and women as they articulated the training subject needs throughout the Body of Christ. This was not *the West going to the rest*; it was *the best around the world going to the rest of the world*. Out of this development phase

came what is called the Global Church Learning Center (www.gclc.tv). The Global Church Learning Center is comprised of five major categories: leadership development, global missions, church multiplication, evangelism and discipleship, and visionary networking. For this Global Church Training Curriculum, we chose the top thirty nonnegotiable courses that every pastor and Christian leader needs to study for effective ministry today.

But what good is great content if you don't have a channel of distribution? As we continued in the development phase, we moved into the **Distribution Phase**. The distribution phase was the streaming technology and the relationship development that took place over a long period of time, so that the training content is now made available online, on-ground, and on-time.

At the time of this writing, more than forty thousand pastors and leaders are taking courses in the Global Church Learning Center. Each course is designed to have fifteen sessions of approximately six to seven minutes each. We did not ask each of the teachers to tell us everything they knew about a particular subject, but rather to tell us the best they had learned about that particular subject. In the future, more than 100,000 pastors and leaders will take the training courses offered through the Global Church Learning Center.

In 2013, we began to execute the **Deployment Phase**. The deployment phase is what we call the *Global HUBS of Christianity*. In 2004 I was in a public park in Springfield, Missouri, with my oldest daughter, Olivia, who at the time was three years old. I remember holding her up over my head while she was laughing. It was in this divine moment, as I looked into her Asian eyes, that I sensed the Holy Spirit say, "Look at what I've raised up all over the world." If you want to know what God is up to, just look at what He's raised up! From that point until today, we have determined to seek out those leaders whom God has raised up throughout the earth and do our best to tie relational knots with them and others for the largest harvest possible. The Global Church Training Curriculum and the Global HUBS of Christianity go hand in hand as we march forward into the future.

There are three overarching outcomes for a Global HUB. First, a HUB *synergizes the best relationships*. Second, it *systematizes the best training*. Third, it *strategizes for the unreached people groups in the area*. A HUB is a real place where men and women come together to synergize, systematize, and strategize in their region. In the years ahead there will be more than eight hundred HUBS throughout the Global HUBS of Christianity. There will be one HUB for every ten million people on the planet. For example, in India we will need 130 HUBS. (This takes into account future growth.) In China we will need approximately 125 HUBS. In North America, the country that I come from, we need thirty-five HUBS.

Every two years, a new group of pastors and leaders register for the training that will be taught in the HUB. Every six months, they return to that location to be taught ten courses from the top thirty courses in the Global Church Learning Center. In less than twenty-four months, they will have been taught thirty courses and will be empowered to go and start their own HUB in their village, town, or city.

Never before in the history of the Global Church has there been such a willingness to synergize efforts together, moving beyond egos and logos, to help finish the Great Commission. I'm often asked, "James, do you really believe that we can finish the Great Commission in the twenty-first century?" My response is always the same: "It is the only century I have!" Let's believe our beliefs and doubt our doubts, instead of doubting our beliefs and believing our doubts. Together we can make it a lot harder for people to live on this planet and not hear the glorious Gospel of our Savior, Jesus Christ!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James O. Davis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial 'J'.

Dr. James O. Davis
Cofounder/Billion Soul
Founder/Cutting Edge International

COURSE FEATURES

Part: Unless otherwise noted, each “Part” is numbered to correspond with the original video session on the Global Church Learning Center website.

Activator: Engages and focuses your thinking before instruction. Often accompanied by a quote from the original instructor or a Bible verse.

Purpose: Communicates the intent of the instruction in that “Part,” and whenever possible, the objectives of the original video instructor.

Term: Provides understanding for a term that is specific to the topic, and therefore may not be easily understood, or is used in a unique way during the course.

Key for Understanding: The main organizing principle for the course content. The Keys may be represented by one word, a phrase, or a useful generalization. (Seen as “Key” “Key One,” “Key Two,” etc. in the course).

Narrative: Printed in *italics*, this is an example or story from the original instructor. As much as possible, the original wording has been maintained, and has not been significantly edited for syntax (word order) or word choice, to maintain the voice of the original instructor. If significant editing has occurred, it is marked [Edited Version].

Knowledge for Insight: Explanations, helpful facts, and conclusions based on the original instructor’s vast ministry experience.

Wisdom: Spiritual wisdom passed on from the original instructor.

Effect (Outcome): Promotes thought about the potential effect of the ideas presented when applied in real life. Occasionally it includes a prayer.

Review: Connects main ideas from the previous section, or the entire course.

In Conclusion: Provides a space for identifying valuable insights, reflecting, and writing questions that have emerged as a result of the course.

*Not all of the features are present in every course.

STRONG FAMILIES

Paul Louis Cole and Joann Cole Webster

Paul Louis Cole and Joann Cole Webster built the Christian Men's Network, based in Southlake, TX, with their father, the late Edwin Louis Cole. Spanning five decades, the ministry of CMN is now thriving in 130 nations. Paul is a pastor, church planter, and noted expert on men's issues. Joann, an accomplished author, has written more than fifty books and has edited and published her father's best sellers.

Course Summary

Developed from a video teaching by Paul Louis Cole and Joann Cole Webster, this course explores how to maximize family, so that each family member fulfills God's purposes in their lives. In doing this, we will consider the roles of the parents. We will also draw connections between the principles applied in raising a family, to the principles applied in raising a strong church.

Part One: Introduction & Overview – Getting Wisdom for Your Family

I believe one of the great issues we face in our culture today is not fatherlessness in the pew, but fatherlessness in the pulpit. —Paul Cole

Activator: What do you think are the main issues that families in ministry face?

Purpose: To highlight the biblical foundations and essential considerations for having a maximized family.

🔑 **Key One:** Biblical Foundations

- In Genesis, the first thing God ever created was family. That is the model for us in the church. (Genesis 1:27-28)
- Even before God created the earth, He was living in community. He was living with God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. (John 1:1-3)
- God places us to be in relationships in the earth. (Psalm 68:6)

🔑 **Key Two:** Essential Considerations

- Character
- Outcome-based parenting
- Getting Wisdom (Proverbs 3:19; Proverbs 4:7, Proverbs 8:22,)
- Problems in the home: Sins of commission; Sins of omission; Sins of “no mission”
- Not sacrificing your family on the altar of your ministry.
- Seeing your family as your primary mission field (*Read more: Acts 1:8*)

Wisdom: You can have great crowds with great sermons, but you'll never change the nation until you disciple the men.

- The core of a man is formed in the breath of his father.
- There is no such thing as a perfect family, but we can have a maximized family.
- When ministry is about family first, then family becomes about ministry.

Effect: Which of these considerations resonate with you the most? What do you want to be able to learn from this course? (Refer back to these notes at the end of the course.)

Notes:

Part Two: The Father's House

Activator: Where do you think the average person in your country gets his or her identity? How involved are the fathers? What does your society value in a man?

Purpose: To highlight the importance of a strong family, define fatherlessness, and identify the attributes of a man of God.

☛ **Key One:** Creating Identity

- Strong families give children a sense of identity. (Luke 2:52)
- Affirmation, not just tolerance, happens within a family; you can make mistakes, but you are still loved.

☛ **Key Two:** Fatherlessness

- Fatherlessness is the curse of our day.

Knowledge for Insight: A research study out of Columbia University revealed that a _____ father who lives in the home is actually worse than if there's no father in the home at all.

- Fatherlessness is when a father is present, but disengaged.
- True fatherhood is not just about being in the family. It's about being actively engaged.

☛ **Key Three:** Attributes of a Real Man of God

Today, in many parts of the world, there is not only a lack of fathers, but also a lack of masculinity. —Joann Webster

- God wants from men: consistency, decisiveness, and strength.
- Consistency comes from maturity.
- Strength comes from the inside out, not from the outside in.

A mother and a father engaged in the family is the most powerful tool to establish the kingdom of heaven on the face of the earth. —Paul Cole

Effect: Based on the descriptions in this section, in what areas do you need God's grace to grow? In your ministry or church, how engaged are the fathers with their families? What percentage of the men exhibits the attributes of a man of God? How could you help the men in your church to become the men they were meant to be?

Notes:

Part Three: Character

*The characteristics of the kingdom emanate from the character of the king.
—JoAnn Webster*

Activator: In your society, how much responsibility do parents take for their children's behavior?

Purpose: To highlight the importance of having good character, faithfulness, and consistency both at home and in ministry.

☛ **Key One:** Parent's Character Is Reflected in Their Children

- You cannot punish your children for something you are doing in your own life.
- Your children may not always listen to you, but they will always imitate you.
- Your children can only do what you have trained them to do.
- You cannot punish a child for something you haven't taught them to do well.
- Remember: Training takes time, repetition, and patience.

☛ **Key Two:** Faithfulness Is the Cornerstone of Character

- Parents must be consistent.
- Pastors must be consistent.

*The reason we can have faith in God is because His Word never changes. It doesn't waiver. It doesn't move with whatever is happening at the moment.
—Paul Cole*

- God commits to character, not talent. (2 Timothy 2:2)
- Your character is what initiates trust in your family and in others.
- Private philosophy determines public performance.

Effect: What kind of character would you like to see your children exhibit in their lives? Write down your vision for the kind of character you want to have in private and public life. Take time to pray and ask God to work those qualities in you.

Notes:

Part Four: The Father, The Mother

Scripture: Proverbs 1:8

Activator: What effect do you think the perspectives and aspirations of a mother and father have on a child's identity?

Purpose: To define what it means to be a father and to highlight the influences of both parents in the home.

🔑 **Key One:** What It Means to Be a Father (1 Corinthians 4:15)

- An instructor tells you what he knows. A father gives you who he is.
- A father provides: Love, Value, Acceptance, Intimacy, Discipline, Security

Knowledge for Insight: Gangs are surrogate families for young men and women who are looking for _____.

- A father should: Make sure his child knows Christ; Make sure he leaves a legacy; Teach his child faith; Find his child the right spouse. (John 8:39, Genesis 18:19)
- Oftentimes when Christian women are ready to get married, they are asking, "Where are all the men?" Ask yourself if you are you raising up men to marry your daughters.
- God established his fatherhood for us in Scripture. He affirms us as His children. (1 John 3:1; Luke 11:2)

🔑 **Key Two:** Both Parents Form the Future

- In the home there is the role of the authority, and there is the role of influence. (Proverbs 1:8)
- The best thing parents can do for their children is not to make all their decisions for them, but to allow the children to watch the parents make theirs.
- Where there is not a father in the home, more children will succeed when they have loving, creative mothers with great expectations for their children.
- When there is a father in the home, most children do not tend toward the illicit, immoral, and illegal.

Effect: Which points in this section are significant for you personally? Why? Which points would you like to make sure to pass on to your church family?

Notes:

Part Five: Maturity

Maturity doesn't come with age just because someone gets older. Maturity doesn't come with age. It comes with the acceptance of responsibility. You can have children when you're immature, and we see many people trying to be leaders who are immature in their own lifestyle. —Paul Cole

Activator: How would you describe maturity? At what age do men typically reach true maturity in your culture?

Purpose: To explore the development and application of maturity in home and ministry.

☛ **Key One:** Maturity Is a Choice

- Maturity does not come with age. It comes with the acceptance of responsibility.
- Maturity is the ability to make the right decision even when the emotions of the moment would cause you to do something different.

☛ **Key Two:** Maturity at Home Should Lead to Ministry

- Maturity is a qualification for leadership. (1 Timothy 3)
- Maturity needs to be exercised in the family before a man is qualified for leadership in ministry.
- When you have your family in order, it's time to get out and minister! (1 Timothy 3:4-5, Luke 9:48, Mark 10:44)

☛ **Key Three:** Maturity, Consistency, and Leadership

- Maturity is inner stability. Maturity is consistency.
- When you're inconsistent, it breeds contempt for your leadership.

Knowledge for Insight: In some cultures today, maturity isn't reached until age thirty. In Jesus' time, you were considered mature at age _____.

- Leaders need to be consistent in their personal lives.
- To take people from immaturity to maturity:
 - Become consistent in your own life
 - Adopt a system for discipling men
(Resource: ChristianMensNetwork.com)

Effect: How would you describe your maturity, based on the descriptions in this section? How are you demonstrating your maturity and consistency in your family and in your church? How could you help the men in your church to practice and lead with maturity?

Notes:

Part Six: Finishing Strong

Being a male is a matter of birth, but being a man is a matter of choice...most men don't make that choice. As fathers in our families, we need to help our children make the choice of being followers of Jesus Christ. Raising Christian children is what will change the world. —Paul Cole

Activator: Gideon was a man of great leadership and faith. What do you know about what happened to his sons?

Purpose: To show the results of Gideon's approach to fatherhood, and to highlight important considerations for raising strong families.

☛ **Key One:** Gideon's Life

- Gideon started strong, but did not have a strong finish. (Judges 8:30, 33)

Wisdom: A man without a vision for his future will always return to his past.

☛ **Key Two:** Raising a Strong Family

- Raising a strong family isn't a result of getting everything right every time. It is a result of loving the way God loves, and having the power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in us.
- What you do in life becomes history. What you put into motion becomes legacy.
- Victory is always found on the other side of a fight.

Effect: How are you leaving a legacy of faith for your children? What changes is God prompting you to make today? How can you inspire the men in your church to leave a legacy?

Notes:

Part Seven: Outcome-Based Parenting

The role of a leader is to reach into the hearts of people and pull out their future and show it to them. The role of a father is to reach into the hearts of the next generation and pull out their future, show it to them, and help them to see. Prayer is the key to that.
—Joann Webster

Activator: What do you think “outcome-based parenting” means? How should prayer be incorporated into parenting?

Purpose: To define Outcome-Based Parenting, and to explain how to approach it through prayer.

🔑 **Key One:** What Is Outcome-Based Parenting?

- Reproducing your faith in your children (Timothy 1:5)
- Keeping a prayerful watch over your children to help them find their gifts and destiny
- Not imprinting on your children what you think they should do

🔑 **Key Two:** Prayer Comes First

- Prayerfully discover what God is doing in them.
- As you pray over your children according to God’s Word, it opens your eyes to things seen only in the spiritual realm.
- Sometimes you need to lay hands on your children and pray for God to give them gifts.
- By prayer, pull the giftings out of your children.
- Agree in prayer for your children. (See Matthew 18:19)

Wisdom: The place of agreement in prayer is the place of power.

When there’s disagreement there is powerlessness. —Paul Cole

- Model the prayer time for your children.
- Prayer produces intimacy with: the one you pray to; the one you pray with; the one you pray for.
- Intimacy comes through prayer: with your congregation; with your spouse; with your family; with God.

Effect: Write down your plan to pray for your children. Be specific: How often? Who will you agree with? What kinds of things will you pray for? How will you model prayer with your children? Be specific: When? Where? What will your focus be?

Notes:

Part Eight: The Minister's Home

*As a minister, you must not sacrifice your family on the altar of your ministry.
—Joann Webster*

Activator: What factors do you think result in a minister's children wanting to go into ministry? What factors would dissuade them?

Purpose: To highlight the importance of protecting the minister's home, and some practical approaches to maintaining healthy boundaries.

🔑 **Key One:** Protecting the Minister's Family

- Ministry is endless; you will never reach a place where everyone has been ministered to, and there are no more issues. (John 12:8)
- Sacrificing family time for ministry can lead to: resentment; outright rebellion in children; children deciding they don't want any part of ministry life when they grow up.
- God did not call you into ministry to sacrifice your family. As a minister, you must not sacrifice your family on the altar of your ministry.
- It is essential that you set boundaries to protect your family time.
- Practical approaches

Wisdom: With your words, frame the sacrifices of ministry for your children as a privilege and an opportunity to serve Christ.

☞ **Key Two:** Preaching Rules

- Do not use your family members for an illustration without their permission.
- Do not embarrass your spouse from the pulpit. Always honor them in front of your people.
- Honor and champion your family in front of others.

Effect: How will you protect your family time? How will you discuss the sacrifices of ministry with your family? What are some ways you can think of for spending good quality time with your spouse and children?

Notes:

Part Nine: The Atmosphere of Your Home

The spirit of God was hovering over the deep (Genesis 1:2-3). That means wherever there's darkness, the spirit of God is always hovering. Waiting for what? The word of faith to pull it into that atmosphere, and the creative power of faith to change everything. I believe, in your family, that you can create an atmosphere where the Spirit and the presence of God come alive. —Ed Cole

Activator: What factors contribute to the atmosphere in the home?

Purpose: To highlight the importance of creating the atmosphere for the presence of God to flow in your family, and to give some practical suggestions for creating that atmosphere.

☞ **Key:** Creating an Atmosphere of Life

- As God's Word is to Him, your word is to be to you.
- Out of a man's life (source) flows either death or life. (1 Corinthians 11:3)
Note: The role of a man is not positional but functional.
- Practical ways to create an atmosphere of life

Wisdom: Create an atmosphere for legacy, for children to grow up healthy and strong.

Effect: How often do you speak life-giving words to your spouse?
How often do you speak life-giving words to your children?
What are some ways you could bring more vibrancy into your home?

Notes:

Part Ten: Discipline

Jesus invested his entire ministry life in discipling a small group of men. —Paul Cole

Activator: What is the purpose of discipline? How are discipleship and discipline related?

Purpose: To define discipline and describe its true purpose.

🔑 **Key One:** The Definitions of Discipline

- To *be disciplined* means to have our lives disciplined.
- To *discipline others* means to help them be disciplined.
- Discipline means helping others become what God wants them to be.
- Discipline means being equipped for every good work.
(2 Timothy 3:16-17)

🔑 **Key Two:** Discipline Flows Out of Love

- Discipline flows out of the heart of God, which is the heart of love.
- Punishing a child from your own emotions (anger, embarrassment, etc.) is an abuse of parental power.
- Discipline is never based on hate.
- Love-based discipline leads to excellence. (Psalm 37:4-5, Ephesians 2:10)
- Don't place unrealistic performance-based expectations on your child.
- Help your children to see a God who is filled with love and grace every time they mess up.

Effect: What is discipline like in your home? Which points in this section may impact the way you think about discipline in the future?

Notes:

Part Eleven: Blended Families

It is a broken world; nothing's perfect. There are imperfections in us, in our children, in our leaders, in everything we see. But God said He would not fail us.
—Paul Cole

Activator: What do you think are the biggest challenges for blended families?

Purpose: To highlight how God works through blended families, and to identify priorities for a blended family.

🔑 **Key One:** God Works Through Blended Families

- Regardless of the difficulty of the situation, God will stay with us. (Hebrews 13:5; 2 Corinthians 4:8-9)
- The Bible has several examples of unique family situations.
- God works through blended families and non-blended families alike.

🔑 **Key Two:** Priorities for a Blended Family

- In a blended family, the marriage has to come first.

Knowledge for Insight: Marriage is not a 50-50 proposition. Marriage is a _____ proposition. (Each spouse gives _____ percent to the marriage.)

- Focus on teaching children the Word of God; that is what will have the most impact on them. Don't let yourself be concerned about the culture at the previous spouse's house. (Psalm 119:11)

Effect: (If you are in a blended family) How has this section been helpful to you? Which points in this section will be useful as you minister to blended families in your church?

Notes:

Part Twelve: Difficult Circumstances

Scripture: Psalm 46:1

Activator: What are some unique challenges for ministers, as they move through difficult circumstances?

Purpose: To provide principles for navigating through difficult circumstances both at home and in ministry.

☞ **Key One:** Bringing People into Your Home

- When you invest in helping someone else's child, you can reap the benefits in your own children. You will see more fruit in them as well. (Luke 16:12)
- Practical suggestion: When blending people, use common values that everyone can agree to. (This same principle can apply when blending a congregation).

☞ **Key Two:** Difficult Situations in Ministry

- When dealing with difficult issues that are exposed publicly, remove your own emotions from the situation. (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- Cover others with grace; don't expose each other's sin. (1 Peter 4:8)

In the same way that God is our refuge, we need to be a refuge for people who are hurting. —Paul Cole

Effect: How could you personally be investing in people who are in difficult circumstances? Which point in this section was most significant to you?

Notes:

Part Thirteen: Forgiveness

Those hurts and wounds of others, from others, that are held on to, those become scars...that never heal. —Paul Cole

Activator: To what extent can a man or woman who hasn't forgiven be used in ministry?

Purpose: To highlight the importance of forgiveness.

☛ **Key:** Forgive Everyone

- Forgiveness is the most Godlike thing we will ever do in our lives. (Matthew 6:12)
- Stand in the place of forgiveness with everybody, all of the time.
- Forgive even the smallest things. (John 20:22-23)
- Forgiveness opens. Unforgiveness closes.
- How you leave one place determines how you will enter the next place.

Effect: Consider your heart: Do you forgive everyone all the time? Do you forgive even the smallest things (annoyances that don't seem significant)? Have you left a situation with unforgiveness in your heart, and expected God to bless you? Who do you need to forgive?

Notes:

Part Fourteen: Raising Champions

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13:11

To raise champions is to put away childish things in your own life first...you must build that same character in your own life first. —Paul Cole

Activator: What kind of character issues in parents would affect their children? What factors do you think have the most impact on raising a child who is a champion for Christ?

Purpose: To discuss how to raise champions out of love and a passionate devotion to Jesus.

🔑 **Key One: Love vs. Lust**

- The opposite of love is lust.
- Love is not an emotion. It is an act of the will. (Matthew 22:37)
- Love is the desire to benefit others even at the expense of self, because love desires to give.
- Lust is the desire to benefit self even at the expense of others, because lust desires to get.
- It is wrong to lust the ministry and your position in your own family.
- Lust comes out of selfishness, an immature spirit.

🔑 **Key Two: Put Your Children in Front of Jesus**

- Do what parents would have done in Jesus' time. Push through the crowds; do whatever it takes to put your children in front of Jesus. (Matthew 19:14)
- Give your children every opportunity to be touched by Jesus.
- Remember, it is not always convenient, but it is important.

Effect: Refer back to the points about love and lust. Which points were significant for you? Refer back to the list of ideas for giving your child every opportunity to be touched by Jesus. Which of those do you want to practice more?

Notes:

In Conclusion: What are the three most valuable insights you gained from this course?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Write down any questions you still have. Pray and ask God to reveal the answers as you seek Him.

Knowledge for Insight Answers:

Part Two: disengaged

Part Four: acceptance, aspirations

Part Five: 12

Part Eleven: 100-100, 100

WINNING MY RACE

Ben Lerner

***Ben Lerner** is the founder of Maximized Living, headquartered in Celebration, FL. His breakthrough strategies for total health and well-being are the foundation for his thriving local practice and the many clinics he owns and consults for around the world. Dr. Lerner is the author of the bestselling books, *Body by God: The Owner's Manual for Maximized Living* and *One Minute Wellness*.*

Course Summary

Developed from a video teaching by Ben Lerner, this course addresses principles of health and wellness so that a leader can have the time, energy, and discipline to be successful in ministry. In doing this, five essentials of health and wellness will be explored.

Part One: Introduction

If God has called you to win a race: you don't want to just run it, you don't want to just finish it, but you want to make sure you have won it. And it takes health to do that.

—Ben Lerner

Activator: How important is it to teach the Body of Christ about healthy living?

Purpose: To address the need for the elements of wellness to be taught to the Body of Christ.

🔑 **Key:** The Need for Wellness

Knowledge for Insight: Wellness is sometimes called the “_____ hand of the Gospel,” because it involves meeting the needs of the leaders and the people so that they can have energy, time, and discipline to win their race.

- Health and wellness tend to be a lesser priority in church settings.
- Many health issues experienced by the average person are caused by destructive lifestyles.
- Depression and stress are prevalent in churches today.
- Many people lack the proper life skills for a healthy lifestyle: the mind-set of success, the ability to manage time effectively, and the principles of winning.

Wisdom: If we don't have energy and longevity, we will not have the time to accomplish our race.

Effect: How would you rate your knowledge of physical and mental health, on a scale from 1 to 10 (1 being “almost no knowledge” and 10 being “expert”)? Explain why you chose your score. What do you hope to learn in this course? (Refer back to this at the end of the course.)

Notes:

Part Two: The Framework

Video Sessions 8 and 9

Jesus met the needs of people physically. Health was a major part of Christ's ministry, so health should be a part of church ministry, or any sort of ministry that you're doing.

—Ben Lerner

Activator: How do you decide which diet and exercise plans to follow? How do you determine what will bring overall wellness to your life?

Purpose: To identify the framework for a healthy lifestyle.

☞ **Key One:** The Criteria for Physical Health

- Is it scientific? Does it follow the wisdom of God? Is it common sense?

Let's become people of conscience as Christians, because we know that God gave us this gift. We want to honor it; we want to treasure it. —Ben Lerner

☞ **Key Two :** Essentials of Health and Wellness

- Maximized Mind; Structural Component; Nutrition; Physical Movement

Knowledge for Insight: The most important nutrient is not anything you would get in a vegetable or fruit. The most important nutrient you need is _____.

- Minimizing Toxicity

Effect: Evaluate your current plan for physical health. How does it line up with the criteria? Which of the five essentials for health and wellness do you know you will need to learn more about? Which of the essentials do you understand really well already?

Notes:

Part Three: Maximized Mind – Section A

Video Session 2

Activator: What reason might a person have for changing their lifestyle? What kinds of reasons do you think really motivate people to change?

Purpose: To identify important steps in developing a healthier mind-set.

☞ **Key One:** Stop Conforming

- A healthy lifestyle means not conforming to the habits of the world: bad eating, the sedentary lifestyle, the destructive habits, and the stress. (Romans 12:2)
- Renewing the mind is the first step to living differently and winning your race.
- Set your heart on being transformed.

☛ **Key Two: Identify Your “Whys”**

- Identify two main reasons for wanting better health and wellness.
- Guidelines: Your “whys” need to be deep enough reasons that they will be powerful enough for you to make a real lifestyle change.
- Write down your “whys” and make them your personal mission. Read them every day, so that you constantly have them at the forefront of your mind, and your commitment can override any feelings you may have at the moment.

Effect: Take time to write down your personal and missional “whys” or reasons for committing to a healthy lifestyle.

Notes:

Part Four: Maximized Mind – Section B

Video Session 3

We’re talking about renewing the mind, because if we don’t, we don’t transform, and we continue to conform to old patterns, to worldly patterns, that we want to get out of. We want to be living a lifestyle that’s in alignment with God’s intention that is bringing good health. —Ben Lerner

Activator: What kind of lifestyle do most people in your area have? Do you think they see themselves as healthy people?

Purpose: To identify important changes for developing a healthier environment and self-view.

☛ **Key One: Shifting Your Culture**

- Consider your culture: Is it a healthy one?
- Determine if you need to shift your habits, values, and practices from the norm in your culture. If your culture is typically unhealthy, be aware that it can be easy to be drawn back into it.

🔑 Key Two: Change Your Self-View

- The following are examples of “stinking thinking,” or misconceptions, about who you are:
 - “I’m one of those people who hates to exercise.”
 - “I’m a fat person.”
 - “I’m a tired person.”
 - “I’m a lazy person.”
 - “I’m a procrastinator.”
 - “I’m a big eater.”
- If you have convinced yourself of any negative statement about yourself, it is not from God.
- Start to replace your old labels with new labels that are in line with what God says about you. Write them down and read them three times every day.

Knowledge for Insight: Research shows that if you read positive statements about yourself _____ a day, within thirty days, you actually start to physically change brain matter to have a new way of thinking about yourself and about your life.
(As cited by Ben Lerner)

I used to say, “I’m not good with teenagers.” Then when my son became a teenager, I realized that’s a bad thing to say about yourself. I’ve got to become good with teenagers. I’ve got two little ones who aren’t teenagers yet. I’m in training now. I now say to myself, “I’m great with teenagers. I’m somebody who can really relate with a teenager. I’m somebody who can really remember what it’s like to be a teenager.” —Ben Lerner

- Teach your congregation to transform their self-view so they can be transformed to be in alignment with God’s view. Remember, a self-view that is in alignment with God’s view will be much more usable and effective in the kingdom.

Effect: How does your culture affect your lifestyle? What would you like your new culture to look like? (Refer back to the list of misconceptions. Mark the ones that apply to you. Refer to the list of positive labels. Mark the ones that you want to see manifested in your life. Write down additional labels you want to be part of your new self-view.) Make a commitment: When will you read these aloud?

Notes:

Part Five: Maximized Mind – Section C

Video Sessions 4 & 5

For a new lifestyle, you need life skills. Ephesians 5:15 goes into the fact that we want to make sure to live as wise, not as unwise, because the days are evil. Some versions say “Redeem the days.” In other words, trade in the days and the way you’re living now for better, more Godly days. —Ben Lerner

Activator: Do you think most people have well-defined goals? What are some ways a person can ensure they accomplish their goals?

Purpose: Provide suggestions for identifying and accomplishing goals for a healthy lifestyle.

🔑 **Key One:** Identifying Goals

- Write down specific goals for a healthier lifestyle. Those will be the goals you use to organize and plan your day.
- Try this exercise on yourself, and then with your congregation: First, determine three goals for each area, called the “Six Fs”: **Faith, Family, Fitness, Finances, Future, Fun**. Then, take a piece of paper and make two columns. On the left side, write down everything you did yesterday, from morning until nighttime. On the right side, write down your goals for the six Fs. Compare what you did yesterday to the goals on the right. Answer this question: Did you do anything at all on the left that would have any chance of helping you achieve the goals on the right?

Wisdom: If there’s no goal, there’s no target.

🔑 **Key Two:** Create a War Plan

- Rationale: Jesus came to give life and to give it more abundantly. The thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy.
- Leaders need a war plan, because the days are filled with evil. Our time management is part of the strategy for winning the war between good and evil.
- You need two documents: 1) To-Do List: All the action steps in your strategy to accomplish your goals in the Six Fs of life; 2) The War Plan itself: All to-do items are laid out and scheduled in your day.
- Creating a plan and strategy reduces stress about the future and allows for more focus on the task at hand.
- Blocking out segments of time for your goals should create consistency. You should no sooner miss those blocks of time than you would an appointment.

Get that written to-do list in place, translate it into a war plan, and teach others to do it. Now you'll not only be giving people the information they need to thrive, but also the life skills, the lifestyles, they need to thrive. —Ben Lerner

Effect: Refer back to the exercise in the beginning of the section. Take time to write down your goals for the Six Fs. Then compare them to how you spend your days. What are some goals that need to be scheduled into your War Plan?

Notes:

Part Six: Maximized Mind – Section D

Video Session 6

These principles of winning come from my work with the U.S. Olympic teams. I've been a doctor for them. I've been somebody who has trained them, helped them with their nutrition, and helped them with their physical fitness and preparation for competing. So much of this has to do with mind-set. —Ben Lerner

Activator: What principles do you think an Olympic athlete would hold?

Purpose: To identify principles of winning as they relate to developing a healthy lifestyle.

🔑 **Key:** Principles of Winning

- Find your unique talent proposition.
- Stay focused on the right things.
- Get in the game.
- Life takes no excuses, only results.

Effect: Which of the principles of winning do you need to cultivate?

Notes:

Part Seven: Maximized Mind – Section E

Video Session 7

Activator: To what extent do you think the people around you affect your success?

Purpose: Highlight the importance of your environment as you pursue a healthy lifestyle.

Term: Strong Room – an environment with a great leader who has an optimal plan and others who will push you to a higher standard.

🔑 **Key:** Training in a Strong Room

- What does your faith room look like?
- What does your marriage and family room look like?
- What does your fitness room look like?
- What does your financial room look like?
- There are two kinds of people in the strong room: those who you can learn from, and those who you can teach.

Effect: Refer back to the questions pertaining to the strong room. Take time to answer each one. How would you describe your “strong room” right now?

Notes:

Part Eight: The Structural Component

Video Session 10

Activator: How prevalent is muscle and joint pain in your part of the world?

Purpose: To identify some causes of structural ailments and the spiritual principle to experiencing healing.

🔑 **Key:** Structural System (Bone, Muscle, Connective Tissue)

- The spinal cord is essential for the function of the nervous system.
- Building strength in muscles holds up the structural system.
- Effect of stress on the structural components:
- Healing Prayer

What I've found is that generally, God has not cursed somebody. Generally, once we come to know Christ, we should expect that the curse is gone. We should expect that we will be healed in the Name of Jesus. So we should expect things to go away, but also expect that God will walk you down a path to do so in many cases. —Ben Lerner

Effect: How would you describe your health in this area (bones, muscles, connective tissue)? Have you considered the perfect prayer?

Notes:

Part Nine: Nutrition

Video Session 11 -13

We live in a world now where food has become so modernized, so commercialized, so refined, that most people are overfed—too many calories, too many bad fats, too many bad nutrients...but they are actually undernourished. It's a weird spot, where there's the obesity epidemic that is worldwide. (And all the conditions that go with that: high cholesterol, high blood pressure, diabetes, and joint issues.) It's a global epidemic that's really killing people. —Ben Lerner

Activator: What kinds of foods are typically eaten by those around you? Is natural or organic food easy to buy?

Purpose: To identify foods and nutrition plans for developing a healthy lifestyle.

Key One: Macronutrients

- Consider macronutrients “Food by God.” These are foods that God intended you to eat, that will be absorbed and used effectively (and oftentimes allow you to eat more without weight gain).
- Good fats, proteins, carbohydrates
- Fruits and vegetables

☞ Key Two: Nutrition Plans for Better Health

- The Core Plan
- Advanced Plan (to eliminate inflammation, pain, sicknesses, and typical issues of aging)

Effect: How would you describe your health in this area? Have you considered the perfect prayer?

Notes:

Part Ten: Physical Movement

Video Session 14

“Exercise” is a word that's become such a bad word in today's society, I'm not sure you can even say it in church. —Ben Lerner

Activator: Do most people in your church have a good amount of activity in their daily routine? What percentage of your members lives a sedentary lifestyle?

Purpose: To identify the need for physical activity and to outline the most effective type of exercise.

Key One: The Need for Fitness

- To run our race, we must be fit and healthy.
- Sedentary lifestyles work against health.

☞ **Key Two:** Duration of Exercise

- Long duration, low-intensity exercise; Short duration, high-intensity workouts

Effect: What changes would you like to see in your body for it to become what you need to “win your race?” How many minutes can you schedule into your day for short duration high-intensity exercise? What time could you exercise?

Notes:

Part Eleven: Minimizing Toxicity

Video Session 15

If you read labels, you'll find there are so many different chemicals, toxins, and preservatives in our foods. —Ben Lerner

Activator: What toxins are you aware of in your environment?

Purpose: To identify the sources of toxicity and give guidelines for minimizing toxicity for a healthy lifestyle.

☞ **Key One:** Toxicity Is Everywhere

- Toxins are often present in small amounts in products and foods. They will not cause immediate damage, but can cause toxic accumulation over time. This leads to a variety of health problems.
- It is not possible to completely avoid toxins, but you can minimize exposure.
- Toxic Top Five: Medication, Home, Tap water, Plastics, Metal exposure

🔑 **Key Two: Avoiding Toxins**

- Buy all-natural foods; Read labels; Buy “green” household cleaners.
- Use a water filter; Use reusable glass or stainless steel water bottles.
- Avoid anything with Teflon (which is illegal in many countries).

We know now that the body really is a body by God. It's to be honored because it's the vehicle we have for carrying out His purposes. If we simply follow common-sense guidelines and look at these Five Essentials, we will have the time, energy, and discipline to win our race. —Ben Lerner

Effect: What are some areas in which you may need to minimize toxicity in your life?

Notes:

Review: The Five Essentials of Health and Wellness are:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

In Conclusion: What are the three most valuable insights you gained from this course?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Write down any questions you still have. Pray and ask God to reveal the answers as you seek Him.

Knowledge for Insight Answers:

Part One: second

Part Two: oxygen

Part Four: three times

FUNDING THE MISSION

Kenneth Ulmer

Dr. Kenneth Ulmer is the Senior Pastor-Teacher at Faithful Central Bible Church in Inglewood, CA. Since his arrival in 1982, the church has grown from less than three hundred people to more than 13,000. Dr. Ulmer is also the Presiding Bishop over Macedonia International Bible Fellowship based in Johannesburg, South Africa, an association of pastors representing ministries in Africa and the United States.

Course Summary

Developed from a video teaching by Kenneth Ulmer, this course explores the topic of funding the mission of spreading the gospel to the ends of the earth. In doing this, essential perspectives, theological principles, biblical examples, practical payoffs, and the role of the missional pastor will be presented.

Part One: Introduction – Essential Perspectives

Video Session 1

Funding the mission: Resources, money, income, is not a God problem. God does not have a money problem. —Kenneth Ulmer

Activator: In your experience, has it been easy to get funding for mission projects? Are most people interested in giving towards mission projects?

Purpose: To identify some essential perspectives for funding the mission.

☞ **Key One:** God Does Not Have a Money Problem

- God is the Creator of everything, and all that exists belongs to Him. (See Psalm 50.)
- The challenge lies in getting the money God has released into the earth realm to be deposited and invested back into the Kingdom.
- God has called His people with a very clear call to missions, and missions need funding.
- God is Jehovah-jireh, the Lord who provides. He sees our need before we see the need.

☞ **Key Two:** God Calls Us to Send Us Out

- Jesus called the disciples “to Himself,” to “be with Him.” (Mark 3:13,14)
- Jesus also called the disciples “that He might send them out....” (Verse 14)
- The pattern: God calls His people to Himself and then sends them out for the purpose of sending the Gospel out into the world.

☞ **Key Three:** Funding Is a Requirement for the Mission

- The ministry of Jesus was funded.
- God divinely and providentially positions people to be part of funding the mission of the Kingdom.
- The mission of the Kingdom of God, which is in the spirit realm, functions in the earth realm, and functioning in the earth realm requires *funding*.

☞ **Key Four:** Funding Means Asking

- Make an appeal; put it forward as a priority of the people of God. (See James 4:2.)
- Don’t back away from the idea of asking for money.

- It is the leader's responsibility to call people to the opportunity to sow into the Kingdom of God.
- God gives seed to the sower: both for food and for sowing. (Isaiah 55:10)
- The greatest danger for believers is to eat all of their seed.
- Prepare the people for the truth of the principle of the seed: There is a life force in that seed that does not come forth until the seed is planted and brings forth a harvest.

Effect: How comfortable are you making an appeal for the funding of missions? How involved is your church in sending people out for missions locally and internationally? What questions do you have about funding the mission? (Refer back to these at the end of the course.)

Notes:

Part Two: Funding and the Theological Principle

Video Sessions 2 and 3

The funding of the ministry begins with a theological principle. —Kenneth Ulmer

Activator: How would you define the mission of the Church of Jesus Christ?

Purpose: To identify the foundational theological principles for funding the mission.

☞ **Key One:** Defining the Mission

- To glorify God as Jesus glorified God (John 17:4)
- To complete the assignment that Jesus gave us (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16: 15; Acts 1:4,5; Acts 1:8)
- The Mission: to glorify God by *going* and making disciples.

☞ **Key Two:** The Necessity of Funding

- "Going" is the essence of ministry.
- "Going" requires resources.
- Salvation is free but it's not cheap.
- The movement of the Gospel must be funded.

The purpose is not to come to church; it is to be deployed, or released, into the world. That's the principle of discipleship; that's the principle of missions: to send the Gospel, to release the Gospel in the lives of men and women back out into the world. —Kenneth Ulmer

Effect: What is your church's mission? Does it fit with the mission mentioned above? How is your church planning on "going" out with the Gospel? Who is your church sending out to release the Gospel?

Notes:

Part Three: Biblical Picture – Paul and the Church at Philippi

Video Sessions 4-6

The spiritual dynamic of the Gospel is free to all but it's not cheap. It cost Jesus his life. It cost the Father His Son. And in the earth realm, it costs the resources to get the truth of the Gospel, of the Father and the Son, out to a dark and dying world. That's what missions are all about. —Kenneth Ulmer

Activator: What do you know about Paul's relationship to the Church at Philippi?

Purpose: To highlight a biblical picture of funding the mission.

🔑 **Key One:** Koinonia

- Paul defines his relationship with the church using the word "koinonia." which can be translated either *fellowship* or *partnership*. (Philippians 1:3-5, Acts 2:42.)
- Paul's description of his deep bond with Philippi could also be translated as "partnership." (Philippians 1:3-5)
- Paul's relationship to the church in Philippi tells us that in order to develop an atmosphere that places a high value on missions we must create an atmosphere based on the principles of fellowship and partnership.

🔑 **Key Two:** Partnership in Giving and Receiving

- In Philippians 4:15, Paul defines his relationship with the church at Philippi as a partnership of giving and receiving with the church.
- Paul's partnership with Philippi included both a practical and spiritual dynamic.
- Lives were changed and people were touched by the power of God because of the gifts of the church of Philippi.
- Application

Effect: Has your church experienced the “koinonia,” the partnership that the church at Philippi had with Paul? Have you developed a deep bond with someone you support on the mission field—or with someone who supports you? Which points in this section are most meaningful for you and your ministry?

Notes:

Part Four: Practical Payoff

Video Sessions 7-10

In theory, the church [at Philippi] could go to Corinth and see churches, see believers, see house churches and places where people gathered. They could go to Thessalonica...and see places where people gathered. In a very real way, they could say, “That’s where my mission money went. That’s the result of my sowing.” —Kenneth Ulmer

Activator: What are some ways that a church can show concrete results of seeds that have been sown into a mission’s project?

Purpose: To identify practical payoffs for funding the mission.

☛ **Key One:** Visual Reinforcement

- When your church helps to fund a particular mission or project, be intentional about providing a visual experience of the “fruit.”
- Keep people connected to the mission of “going and making disciples” in every visual way possible.
- Give those who sowed into the mission the opportunity to feel a “humble pride” in their participation.
- Create an atmosphere that clearly communicates that the fluid movement of the Gospel is your mission from Jerusalem out to the ends of the earth. (See Acts 1:8)
- Be intentional about creating a global perspective.

☛ **Key Two:** “God Shall Supply All Your Needs”

- Paul shared this message with the Philippians (Philippians 4:19-19)

Knowledge for Insight: A verse that begins with the word “but” should be studied in _____ with the previous verses.

Effect: What kind of visual reinforcement for global missions do you have at your church? What kind of financial sacrifices are you making for the sake of the Gospel?

Notes:

Part Five: Missional Pastor

Video Sessions 11-12

Activator: What characteristics come to mind when you think of a missional pastor?

Purpose: To describe the essential role of a missional pastor in funding the mission.

🔑 **Key One:** Set the Mind-set

- The pastor is crucial to the establishment of missions-minded ministry.
- Mission mind-sets do not happen within a church in the absence of leadership (they will not happen automatically).
- The priority must be clear.
- Establish an atmosphere in which people recognize that the church is a “launching pad” for missions.
- Write the vision (Habakkuk 2:2).

🔑 **Key Two:** The Burden Births the Vision

- The writing of the vision in Habakkuk 2:2 begins with the burden in Habakkuk 1:1. (Habakkuk 1:1; Habakkuk 2:2)

Knowledge for Insight: _____ is a product of burden.

- A better question than “What is your vision?” is “What is your burden?”
- If the sending of the Gospel is a part of your burden, it will be in your vision.
- Vision is what you’ve seen in your mind; burden is what you carry in your heart.
- Remember, you cannot take every missions project. Let other ministries receive the blessing of those projects. (See Malachi 3:10)
- Your church budget should reflect your priorities in missions:

God gives you burden that leads to vision, and that vision must be funded. But it begins with you as the pastor. It must be a priority in that house [of God]. It cannot be an additional, optional extra. It must be woven within the fabric of the philosophy, the vision and mission of that house. And when you do that, “know that my God shall supply all your need, according to His riches and glory.” —Kenneth Ulmer

Effect: How are you setting the mind-set for global missions? What points from this section will you plan to implement in your church? What is the burden you carry in your heart? What is your vision to go with that burden?

Notes:

In Conclusion: What are the three most valuable insights you gained from this course?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Write down any questions you still have. Pray and ask God to reveal the answers as you seek Him.

Knowledge for Insight Answers:

Part Four: context

Part Five: Vision

THE HEALTHY CHURCH

David Dykes

Dr. David Dykes is senior pastor of Green Acres Baptist Church in Tyler, TX. With more than 15,000 members, Green Acres is recognized as one of America's leading churches for missions and evangelism. Annually, Green Acres invests over \$3 million into global missions and sends out over one thousand volunteer missionaries. Dr. Dykes has personally led missions' teams to twenty countries.

Course Summary

Developed from a teaching video by David Dykes, this course explores the ten characteristics of healthy churches based on the early church as described in Acts 2:42-47.

Part One: Introduction

Video Sessions 1 and 2

Activator: What makes a church grow? How do you know if your church is healthy?

Purpose: To establish the role of the pastor in church growth, and to identify the ten characteristics of a healthy church based on Acts 2:42-27.

☞ **Key One:** The Church Belongs to God

- The church belongs to God and only God can build it. (Matthew 16:18)
- The pastor cannot build a church or make it grow.
- *What is the pastor's role?* Create a healthy environment for the church to grow. (1 Corinthians 3:6)

Wisdom: Instead of focusing on church growth, focus on church health.

☞ **Key Two:** The Characteristics of a Healthy Church Found in Acts 2:42-47

Healthy Churches: Offer consistent Bible truth; Have loving fellowship; Make prayer the priority; Trust God to do supernatural things; Maintain unity; Develop a culture of generosity; Offer excellent large group worship; Create nurturing small groups; Impact their community in positive ways; Welcome new people into their fellowship

Effect: Which of the ten characteristics are present in your church body? Which do you want to learn more about? What questions do you have about growing a healthy church? (Refer back to these at the end of the course.)

Notes:

Part Two: Consistent Bible Truth

Video Sessions 2-5

The number one thing you can do to create a healthy atmosphere in your church is to ensure that the congregation is fed a steady diet of the Word of God. —David Dykes

Activator: What made the apostles' teaching effective? What makes your teaching effective?

Purpose: To identify the source of effective teaching and practical ways to communicate the Word of God.

☛ **Key One:** Learning from the Apostles' Teaching

- The early church is the best model of healthy preaching and teaching for a healthy church.
- The apostles' teaching would have come from two sources: 1) The Old Testament Scriptures they had memorized; 2) Every experience they had with Jesus.

Knowledge for Insight: _____ was a big part of the Jewish upbringing in biblical times.

- The apostles had supernatural assistance for their teaching. (John 14:26)
- Application: Don't just preach sermons; preach the Word of God.

☛ **Key Two:** Effective Preaching and Teaching

- Preparation: 1) *Don't*: start with a topic, then look in the Bible to find passages to support your message; 2) Always start with the Word of God. Let the Bible drive your preaching and teaching; 3) Utilize expository Bible preaching; preach through the books of the Bible, section by section, verse by verse. (John 5:39)
- Tips to provide direction when studying a passage for preaching: 1) What was the message to the original audience to which it was written? 2) What are the general spiritual principles that we can learn from this passage in Scripture? 3) What is God saying to me through this passage?
- Organizational tip: Make three sections for every preaching point—Explanation, Illustration, and Application.

Effect: How do you prepare to preach the Word? Which points in this section might be useful to improve your effectiveness in teaching and preaching?

Notes:

Part Three: A Loving Fellowship

Video Session 6

The church is not an organization. It's an organism. It's alive. The church is not an institution. It's a family. It's a relationship of brothers and sisters. The healthiest churches I know offer this sense of fellowship and community. —David Dykes

Activator: What does it mean to have a sense of community?

Purpose: To identify the biblical basis for community, and to identify ways to create a sense of community in a church body.

☞ **Key One:** Biblical Community

- A healthy church offers fellowship: a sense of community and belonging.
- God exists within community: Father, Son, Holy Spirit. (Genesis 1:26)
- God created the first community. (Genesis 2:18)
- God created His community, His nation of Israel, from Abraham's family. (Genesis 22:18a)
- Jesus chose to live in community with the disciples.

☞ **Key Two:** Creating A Sense of Community

- Carry one another's burdens.
- Pray for each other; Forgive each other; Be kind to each other.
- Encourage each other; Be accountable to each other.
- Love each other; Serve each other. (Hebrews 10:24,25, NIV)

Effect: What are your plans to intentionally create a sense of community in your church?

Notes:

Part Four: Make Prayer a Priority

Video Session 7

Activator: What did the prayer life of the early church look like?

Purpose: To highlight the prayer model of the early church and to identify different types of prayers.

☛ **Key One:** The Prayer Model of the Early Church

- Pray in times of crisis (Acts 4:31); opposition (Acts 12); and for God’s direction. (Acts 13:3)

☛ **Key Two:** Praying Different Kinds of Prayer

- Paul’s letter to the Philippians shows us that there are different kinds of prayer. (Philippians 4:6)
- Helpful method for praying different kinds of prayer in your personal prayer time: **A.C.T.S:** **A**doration: Praise God for who He is; **C**onfession of sins: Ask the Holy Spirit to shine a spotlight on your heart to see if there is any unconfessed sin, then confess it to the Lord; **T**hanksgiving: Thank God for what He does; **S**upplication: Ask God to supply for needs (intercede for the needs of others first, and then pray for your own).

If you’ll use that little acrostic (ACTS) in your church and in your personal prayer time—adoration, confession, thanksgiving, supplication—you’ll become a praying believer and your church will become a praying church. —David Dykes

Effect: How will you incorporate the different types of prayer into your prayer life? Does your church pray in the ways the early church prayed? Why or why not? How could you incorporate the different types of prayer in your church’s prayer times?

Notes:

Part Five: Trust God for the Supernatural

Video Sessions 8 and 9

One of the things that Jesus said to the disciples before He returned to Heaven was, “The works that you see Me do.... Greater works than these you will do.” How in the world could that come true? Because Jesus was God in the flesh. Very simply, Jesus could only be at one place at one time when He was living here in the flesh. But He said this to a group of people and He knew they were going to spread out. They were going to share His supernatural power and authority with those that they came in contact with. —David Dykes

Activator: What does it look like when the power and authority of Christ are manifested in a church? What kind of supernatural experiences can the church expect to have today?

Purpose: To highlight why and how the church should trust God for the supernatural.

☞ **Key One:** Signs and Wonders in the Early Church

- Jesus gave His disciples both authority and power. (Matthew 10:1; Acts 1:8)
- The book of Acts records many instances of the supernatural (power and authority) being manifested in the lives of the disciples. (Acts 2:43; Acts 3:2-6)

☞ **Key Two:** The Roles of Power and Authority

- Authority means operating and ministering in the name of Jesus.
- Having power means operating and ministering with the power of Jesus Christ:

☞ **Key Three:** Believing for the Supernatural

- God's power is released by faith. In order to experience God's power, we need to believe for something outside of human ability.
- When we step out, believe God, and obey by faith, He will provide power at just the right moment.

Effect: When was the last time you attempted something in ministry that was impossible?

Notes:

Part Six: Maintain Unity

Video Session 10

God wants unity in the church and the devil wants to divide churches. So we must maintain this sense of unity. —David Dykes

Activator: Why is unity so important to the church?

Purpose: To describe and define the role of unity and to highlight ways to maintain it in the church.

☞ **Key One:** The Opposition to Unity

- We have an adversary who wants to divide and conquer followers of Christ.
- In the Garden of Eden, the devil waited until Eve was alone to tempt her. He has used that same tactic against believers to this day.

🔑 **Key Two:** Defining Unity

- Unity is not uniformity; it does not mean everyone looks and acts the same.
- Unity is not unification; it is not man's effort to bring different groups or religions together.
- Unity is when the Holy Spirit binds people's hearts together.

🔑 **Key Three:** Maintaining a Spirit of Unity in the Church

- Unity is created by the Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 4:3)
- Though we cannot create unity, we can create disunity. (Ephesians 4:29,30)

Is there unity in your church? Well thank God for it, and do everything you can to maintain it because unity is one of the marks of a healthy church. —David Dykes

Effect: How would you describe the level of unity in your church? What are some ways you could encourage others to protect the unity in your church?

Notes:

Part Seven: Develop a Culture of Generosity

Video Session 11

If you're going to nurture a spirit of generosity, you've got to understand the foundations of God's economy. —David Dykes

Activator: What factors hinder generosity? What factors help?

Purpose: To highlight the importance of generosity and financial accountability in the church.

🔑 **Key One:** God's Economy

- God owns all the wealth in existence. (Psalm 24:1a)
- God allows us to manage a portion of His wealth. (Luke 16:10)
- God wants His wealth in circulation to support His work.

🔑 **Key Two: Stewardship**

- Personal stewardship—making offerings to the work of the Lord. Staff members should always tithe. (Proverbs 3:9)
- Church stewardship—how the church manages its money.

I challenge you. Get in a giving contest with God. (See Luke 6:38, NIV.) I challenge you to create a healthy atmosphere of generosity in your church and God can grow that church. —David Dykes

Effect: How do you ensure financial accountability? How could you model generosity with your money? What steps can you take to create a culture of generosity?

Notes:

Part Eight: Excellent Large Group Worship

Video Session 12

Activator: What makes large group worship “excellent?”

Purpose: To describe the biblical basis and elements of excellent large group worship.

🔑 **Key One: Large Group Worship in the Early Church**

- The temple courts; Worship

🔑 **Key Two: Elements of an Excellent Worship Service**

- Songs of praise: Psalms, Hymns, Spiritual songs
- Corporate prayer; Collecting an offering
- Preaching of the Word (central element); Invitation to respond

Effect: Would you consider the worship at your church excellent? Why or why not? What steps could you take to encourage excellent worship at your church?

Notes:

Part Nine: Nurture Loving Small-Group Relationships

Video Session 13

If you really want to be a healthy church and you want to grow beyond a certain size, you must provide small groups, cell groups, house groups, care groups. You must break down your membership or your worship attendance into smaller groups. There are a lot of pastors and leaders that think you're going to grow the church by just having a great worship and saying for everybody to come. But the truth of the matter is, the churches that are growing the fastest around the world have always been churches that focused on creating cell groups. —David Dykes

Activator: What factors make small groups effective?

Purpose: To describe how to create small groups and to identify the benefits of small groups in the church.

🔑 **Key One: How to Create Small Groups**

- Divide your church membership into small groups of eight to fifteen people.
- Look for affinity: male, female, married or unmarried, age groups.
- Appoint leaders that are supportive of the ministry of the church.
- Train the leaders and give them a curriculum to follow.

🔑 **Key Two: Benefits of Small Groups**

- Opportunity to ask and answer questions and to have discussion about the Word.
- Deeper relationships develop in which believers can respond to needs and times of crisis in each other's lives.
- Opportunity to "break bread" and share the love of Christ together.

You may grow a church to a certain size only offering worship, but you're going to be limited in how God can grow your church unless you start developing nurturing small groups. When you do that, God can grow his church. —David Dykes

Effect: How could you nurture loving small-group relationships in your church?

Notes:

Part Ten: Impact the Community in Positive Ways

Video Session 14

The early church in the book of Acts, the church in Jerusalem, really the first church ever in the history of the world, was making a positive impact on the community. People liked the church. The church had a good reputation in the community. —David Dykes

Activator: What can a church do to impact the community? What kinds of outreaches are effective?

Purpose: To describe ways the church should impact the community.

🔑 **Key One:** Outreach in the Early Church

- The early church had a good reputation in the community.
- The early church grew from 120 to 10,000 (in what is believed to be just a few months) through their outreach and focus on the community.
- The early church was focused on reaching people in their community through evangelism and was not inwardly focused.

Knowledge for Insight: In Acts chapter 8, we learn that the Jewish Sanhedrin, the same religious leaders who had murdered Jesus, began to persecute the church. By that time, the number of disciples had multiplied into the _____ of thousands.

🔑 **Key Two:** Evangelism

- Evangelism is translated from the Greek word, “euaggelizo,” which means, “to share the good news.”
- Evangelism means sharing the best news that you will ever share, and sharing the best news the world will ever hear.
- The Word tells us to be focused on reaching the world (to be outwardly focused). (Luke 14:22; Matthew 28:19a)
- Your personal faith story is your best tool for evangelism.

I want to encourage you to make sure your church is outwardly focused, because healthy churches impact their community in positive ways. —David Dykes

Effect: How could your church impact the community? What outreaches would you like to see emerge from your church?

Notes:

Part Eleven: Welcome New People into the Church Family

Video Session 15

Churches that are healthy and are really outward focused make it easy for new people to come and be absorbed into their church membership. —David Dykes

Activator: What are the most effective ways to get new people connected to your church?

Purpose: To describe how to help new people to feel welcome and connected in the church.

🔑 **Key One:** Help New People Find their Place

- Help new people to find a place to serve; help them to discover their gifts, talents, abilities, and passions so they can become involved in ministry.
- Keep in mind: People will take more ownership, be happier, and complain less when they have a job to do.

🔑 **Key Two:** Expectations for New Members

- Make a pledge that they will safeguard the unity of the church.
- Share in the outreach of the church.
- Serve in the ministry of the church.
- Support the ministry of the church through their tithes and offerings.

Effect: What expectations do you have for new members? What ideas from this section could you implement in the way you welcome new people?

Notes:

Review: The Ten Characteristics of healthy churches are:

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 10. _____ |

In Conclusion: What are the three most valuable insights you gained from this course?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Write down any questions you still have. Pray and ask God to reveal the answers as you seek Him.

Knowledge for Insight Answers:

Part Two: Scripture memorization

Part Ten: tens

HOW TO SHARE YOUR FAITH

John Sorensen

Dr. John B. Sorensen is the president of Evangelism Explosion International, a ministry based in Ft. Lauderdale, FL, that trains people how to share their faith in Christ. Key to EE's success is its focus on "spiritual multiplication"—not just winning people to the Lord one by one, but training those won to the Lord to win, and then train others.

Course Summary

Developed from a video teaching by John Sorensen, this course will provide an opportunity to define the vision of evangelism and to become better equipped for sharing the Gospel in a practical, easy-to-remember way. In doing this, we will also explore the obstacles, fears, and questions that arise in sharing the Gospel.

Part One: Introduction

Activator: In what context do you freely share the Gospel? Where and when do you find it most difficult?

Purpose: Explore some common beliefs, excuses for not sharing faith, and truths about sharing the Gospel.

☞ **Key One:** Diagnostic Questions

- Do you know for certain that if you were to die today, that you would go to Heaven? Or is it something you are still working on?
- Suppose you were to die today and God were to say to you, “Why should I let you into My Heaven?”

☞ **Key Two:** The Truth of Salvation

- Only the atoning work of Jesus Christ gains us access into Heaven.

Knowledge for Insight: Of all the religions of the world, there are only two ways presented to get to Heaven: _____, OR accept Christ and His atoning work.

- Knowledge doesn't change a person; trusting in Jesus changes a person.
- Life is not a contest of who has done more good.

☞ **Key Three:** Excuses for Not Sharing the Gospel

- “It's not my gift.”
- “Maybe I'll bring them to church and the pastor will get them saved.”
- “Maybe I'll show them a Christian video and that will get them saved.”

Effect: Have you used any of the excuses listed above? How strong is your desire to share the Gospel with the lost? What changes would you like to see in the way you share your faith? (Would you like to be bolder? Would you like to share it more often?)

Notes:

Part Two: The Vision and The Call

Video Sessions 2 and 3

Activator: Do you think most people feel “called” to share the Gospel? How much urgency do you see in the Christians in your context?

Purpose: To present the vision of the course and the call to share the Gospel.

☞ **Key One:** The Vision for This Course

- To assist God’s people in catching His passion for the lost.
- To renew our vision for winning family, friends, and acquaintances for the Lord.
- To learn an easy-to-remember way to share our faith with others.

Knowledge for Insight: The key factor in your most effective form of evangelism is *going* and _____ it.

☞ **Key Two:** The Call to Share Your Faith

- The heart of God lives within you.
- *All* believers are called to share their faith with others. (Mark 1:17; Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:18-20)

Effect: Have you experienced God’s passion for the lost? Pray and ask God to open your heart to whatever He wants you to learn today.

Notes:

Part Three: Overcoming the Obstacles

Video Sessions 4 and 7

Activator: What do you think is the biggest obstacle people face when attempting to share the Gospel? What helps you to share your faith?

Purpose: To highlight the obstacles to sharing the Gospel and practical ways to overcome them.

Wisdom: We are not called to be expert witnesses; we are called to be witnesses.

☞ **Key One:** What Makes It Hard to Share?

- Excuses: Do not have anything in common with unsaved; Do not have the time; Do not have time to be around people with “messy” lives

- Real Reasons: Not equipped; Afraid; “What if I don’t have the answers?” “What if I scare them away from the faith?” Don’t have any desire to talk to non-Christians


☛ **Key Two: A Simple Method**

- “The Hand Presentation” Outline (2 Timothy 1:13): Thumb pointing up = Heaven; Index finger = Man; Great (middle) finger = God; Ring finger = Christ; Little finger = Faith
- The Hand Presentation

The Hand Presentation



THUMB...*(hitchhiker, free ride)*
Heaven is a FREE GIFT
It is not EARNED or DESERVED



INDEX FINGER...*(points out sin)*
Man is a SINNER
He cannot SAVE HIMSELF



GREAT FINGER...*(greatest Being in Universe)*
God is MERCIFUL
But, God is also JUST

Note: When using the “Great Finger,” which is the middle finger, keep the index finger up at the same time to avoid any offense. (Middle finger raised up alone is an offensive gesture in many cultures.)



RING FINGER...(Bridegroom)

Christ is both GOD and MAN

He DIED on the cross

And ROSE from the dead

to PAY the penalty for our sins

and PURCHASE a place in

Heaven for us



LITTLE FINGER...(faith of a mustard seed)

Saving Faith is not just HEAD

KNOWLEDGE

Nor just TEMPORARY FAITH

Saving Faith is

TRUSTING IN JESUS CHRIST

ALONE for our eternal life.

☛ **Key Three: Overcoming Fear**

- Be a witness: One who shares what he or she has seen, heard and/or experienced.
- Share what God has done for you.
- Be comfortable answering, "I don't know the answer to your question. But I do know what the Bible says...."

☛ **Key Four: Witness in the Power of the Holy Spirit**

- Find out where God is working and join Him in it. (John 5:19)
- Make it a matter of faith.
- Jesus knows how to draw men to Himself. (Luke 5:1-11)
- Go "fishing" with the Master. (Verse 11; Verse 10b; Matthew 28:20)

Effect: Would you utilize the "Hand Presentation" in your context? Which points will be most helpful for you in your ministry? Which points would you like to teach to others?

Notes:

Part Four: Getting into Conversation

Video Sessions 8-14

Activator: Have you been very successful at starting conversations about Jesus? How do you approach people?

Purpose: To outline how to begin a conversation that leads to an opportunity to share the Gospel.

☛ **Key One:** Begin a Conversation

- Suggestion: Ask if they have ever met a Christian before.
- Make yourself a friend instead of a stranger.
- Tell something about your life before asking about their beliefs.
- Tell your God-Story: something you have experienced God do in your life.

Knowledge for Insight: All testimonies are powerful. There are no _____ testimonies. (Revelation 12:11)

☛ **Key Two:** Use Diagnostic Questions: “May I ask you a question...?”

- Question 1: Have you come to a place in your spiritual life where you know for certain that when you die you’re going to Heaven? (Or is it something you’re still working on?)
- Question 2: Suppose you were to die today and found yourself standing before God and He asked you, “Why should I let you into My Heaven?” What would you say to Him?

Q1	Q2	Diagnosis	Treatment
Yes	Trust Christ	Christian	Ask for Testimony
No	Trust self	Pre-Christian	Share Gospel

☛ **Key Three:** Springboards to Deeper Conversation

- Comment about a religious holiday.
- Comment on a close call with death or severe accident.
- Respond to the need of prayer.

- Most important: Pray and ask God what comments will help you to springboard into the Gospel.

☞ **Key Four:** Share the Gospel with Stories

Simple Illustrations; Heaven = Friend's Gift Illustration; Man's Sin = Omelet Illustration; God = The Bank Robber Illustration; Christ = The Record Book of Life Illustration; Faith = The Chair Illustration

☞ **Key Five:** Leading in Commitment

- Clarify: Does this make sense to you?
- Commitment Questions
- Ask, "If this is really what you want, I can lead us in prayer, and **we'll** tell God what you just told me."
- Clarify before the prayer.
- The Prayer: "Dear God, thank you that Heaven is a free gift. I admit that I have sinned and that I cannot save myself. I know that You love me, but also realize that You are just and must punish my sins. Thank you for Jesus, who is God, who died to pay the penalty for my sins. Now by faith, I place my full trust in Jesus Christ alone, for eternal life or salvation. I now receive the free gift of eternal life."
- Ask: two Diagnostic Questions again, helping the person to answer with assurance of salvation in Jesus Christ.

Effect: Which of these tools (five keys) will be most useful for your ministry context? How might these tools affect the way you approach people?

Notes:

Part Five: Wrapping Up

Video Session 15

Activator: Which part of this course was most significant to you?

Purpose: To share some final thoughts on the call to share the Gospel.

☞ **Key One:** The Lost (Luke 15:1)

- Ask yourself: How often do sinners hang around me to hear what I have to say?
- Focus on mending the sick rather than being exclusive.
- Lost people are drawn to the Lord but are often despised by the religious.

- Consider the three parables about the lost: The Lost Sheep, The Lost Coin, The Lost Son (See Luke 15:6,7; Luke 15:20)

☞ **Key Two:** The Heart of God in Us

- Love is a work of the Spirit, not of the flesh.
- Get religious attitudes out of the way and begin to let God love people through you.

Effect: Has God highlighted anything in this section for you? Do you have any religious attitudes that you want God to remove?

Notes:

Pray and ask God to love people through you, by His Spirit, with His passion for the lost.

In Conclusion: What are the three most valuable insights you gained from this course?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Write down any questions you still have. Pray and ask God to reveal the answers as you seek Him.

Knowledge for Insight Answers:

Part One: do it yourself

Part Two: doing

Part Four: weak

HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE

Howard Hendricks

Dr. Howard Hendricks taught Bible exposition and hermeneutics at Dallas Theological Seminary for more than sixty years. As a much-loved professor, pastor, and mentor of Christian leaders, he taught more than 10,000 students in his lifetime, wrote numerous books and articles, and ministered in more than eighty countries.

Dr. Hendricks passed away in 2013.

Course Summary

Developed from a video teaching by Howard Hendricks, this course will provide a basis for the importance of Bible study, as well as a methodical approach to studying the Scriptures. We will analyze Scriptures, evaluate our own study habits, and benefit from the wisdom and experience of Dr. Hendricks.

Part One: Why Is Bible Study Important?

Shortly after I became a Christian, someone wrote in my Bible these words: "This book will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from this Book." And I believe that's still true. Dusty Bibles always lead to dirty lives. The only option confronting a Christian is this: you are either in the Word, and the Word is forming Jesus Christ in you; or you are in the world, and the world is squeezing you into its mold. —Howard Hendricks

Activator: Do you think most pastors spend enough time in study? Do you believe a study routine is important? Are there aspects of Bible study you wish you knew more about?

Purpose: To highlight the importance of studying the Bible.

Knowledge for Insight: There are more _____ in print today than any other time in human history. Many Christians have one, and in some cases, a half a dozen. But many don't read them; they don't study them; they don't apply them.

Why Study the Bible?

☛ **Key One:** Personal Bible Study Is Essential to Growth

- "As newborn babes, develop an appetite for the spiritual milk of the Word, that you may grow thereby." (1 Peter 2:2)
- Newborn babes: Your attitude toward the Word of God. Just as the baby grabs for the bottle, you grab for the Book.
- Develop an Appetite
- Grow Thereby: The Bible sets forth the aim of the Word of God—that you may grow thereby.

Wisdom: You can't grow without knowing, but it *is* possible to know and not grow.

☛ **Key Two:** Bible Study Is Essential to Spiritual Maturity

- Hebrews 5:11-14

☛ **Key Three:** Personal Bible Study Is Essential to Spiritual Effectiveness

- 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Wisdom: There is no growth apart from the Word of God. Personal Bible study is not an option; it's an essential.

Review: What are the three main results of Bible study? Evaluate your own personal walk with God: are you seeing these results? In what areas are you doing well? What areas can use improvement? What is the cost of not having these in effect in your personal and public life?

Notes:

Part Two: What Is Personal Bible Study?

What is personal Bible study? The first thing I would suggest is that Bible study is being methodical. —Howard Hendricks

Activator: What has shaped your personal Bible study? Have you been mentored in how to approach Bible study? What does your typical study time look like?

Purpose: To highlight the definition of “Being Methodical” as it relates to personal Bible study.

☞ **Key One:** Being Methodical: Taking Certain Steps in a Certain Order to Guarantee a Certain Result

- There are three basic steps in Bible Study (you cannot _____ these steps). You must ask and answer these questions: 1) Observation: What do I see? 2) Interpretation: What does it mean? 3) Application: How does it work?

Wisdom: Good observation always produces excellent, accurate interpretation. Inaccurate interpretation produces illegitimate application.

☞ **Key Two:** Being Methodical: Purpose to become receptive and reproductive.

- It will allow you to receive revelation and insight from studying alone and following a logical, intelligent, and helpful process.

- It will enable you to clearly convey the truth which God has revealed to you in His Word.
- ☛ **Key Three: Being Methodical: Purpose to have a first-hand acquaintance with the Word.**
- This is important for four main reasons: 1) It will enable you to think for yourself; 2) It will enable you to evaluate the thoughts of others; 3) It will give you the personal joy of discovery; 4) It will enable you to fall in love with the Author.

Most people do not think; they merely rearrange their prejudices. They simply echo what they have heard someone else say, but they don't have the conviction that comes from personal Bible Study. —Howard Hendricks

Knowledge for Insight: You cannot fall in love by proxy; it is an intensely _____ event. God wanted to communicate His love to you personally and He wrote His message in a book.

- “Eye has not seen nor ear heard, neither has entered into the heart of man the things God has prepared for those that love Him.” (1 Corinthians 2:9)

Wisdom: A man or woman who is good in public ministry is a person who is strong in personal ministry.

Effect: Effective personal Bible study produces effective public ministry. Evaluate your own Bible study based on your methods: Is your Bible study currently intended to produce a certain result? Are you studying to be receptive and reproductive? Do you feel well acquainted with the Word? Which parts of “Being Methodical” could you utilize more in your personal Bible study?

Notes:

Part Three: The Process of Personal Bible Study – Three Basic Steps

Video Sessions 3 and 4

Activator: What do you already know about effective Bible study? Do you find it easy to connect the “parts” of what you read in light of the “whole” big picture of life?

Purpose: To get an overview of the process of personal Bible study.

☞ **Key One:** Observation in Bible Study

- Ask the question: “What do I see?”
- Pray the prayer for observation: “Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law.” (Psalm 119:18)
- Ask the Spirit of God to tear the bandages from your eyes so that you might see with spiritual insight.

☞ **Key Two:** Interpretation in Bible study

- Ask: What does it mean? This is your central quest—for meaning.

Knowledge for Insight: The more you learn to _____, the more you will learn to understand and interpret for meaning.

- First Question: “Do you take time to stop and observe before you begin to interpret? If not, what hinders you?”
- Second Question: How do you discover the right answers? In other words: Is it answered in this passage or do we have to go to another passage to get a full answer to our question?
- Third Question: How do I uncover the big picture? It’s important to put the smaller details together in order to see the whole picture.

☞ **Key Three:** Application in Bible Study

- The most needed step, and the most neglected.
- Ask and answer the question: How does it work?
- Do not ask, “Does it work?” It works because it’s the Scripture, and because it’s the Scripture, it works. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Knowledge for Insight: The more time you spend in the Word of God, the more excited you will get about its _____ to your life, and the better equipped you are to share it for others.

Review: The three steps in the process of personal Bible study are _____, _____, and _____.

Effect: Which area do you feel you need to develop the most? What have you heard in this section that you know you need to learn more about?

Notes:

Part Four: The Six Questions of Observation

Video Sessions 5 and 6

Activator: What do you think is the main difference between *observation* and *interpretation*?

Purpose: To present how to utilize the process of observation in personal Bible study

☞ **Key One:** Ask “Who?”

- Who are the people? What do those people say? What is said about them? What do you know about the person from previous Bible study?
- What did they say? Write it down. Underline what they said in your Bible. What is said about them?
- Take a significant amount of time to focus your attention on the people in the passage.

☞ **Key Two:** Ask “What?”

- What’s happening? Is it a miracle? What kind of miracle? Who’s involved? Is it a story?
- Always ask yourself, “Can I tell this story?” If you cannot tell the story, then you need to go back and read it. Examine it by observation until it becomes so much a part of you that you can tell the story to someone else.
- Is it a command?
- Is it an explanation? (Ephesians 5:25; 1 Corinthians 13:1-2)

🔑 **Key Three:** Ask “Where?”

- What’s the location? Where did this event happen? Utilize your Bible map.

Knowledge for Insight: Most Bibles have a map or series of maps at the end of them. But many people never use them. As a result, they get _____ as they read.

🔑 **Key Four:** Ask “When?”

- What time is it? Early in the morning? Late at night? What morning? What night? (Mark 1:35)
- Make sure to understand the timing of this event, along with: What produced it? What did it produce? What comes before? What comes after?

🔑 **Key Five:** Ask, “Why?”

- Why did God include this in the Bible?

🔑 **Key Six:** Ask “Wherefore?”

- Can also be interpreted as, “So what?”
- You need to know who, what, where, when, and why. But this question asks, “For what reason? How does it relate to my life?”
- Ask, “How does it apply to me?” Be able to speak to the needs, the problems, of other people, because you have experienced this truth in your own life.

Assignment: Study Mark 4: 35-42 by answering these six questions for yourself. Read that passage. Reread it several times, and each time, find an answer to: Who? What? Where? When? Why? Wherefore (So what?)

Part Five: Six Questions of Observation – Assignment Answers

Video Sessions 7 and 8

Scripture: Mark 4:35-41

“What?” What preceded this event? What followed this event?

“Who?” Who are the people in this passage?

Knowledge for Insight: Typically, after a storm comes up on a sea, the water surges sometime for hours, even days. The calm sea is evidence that “Peace, be still” are the words of Someone who even controls the _____.

“Where” Where did this take place?

Wisdom: You won’t develop faith by listening to lectures. You develop faith in the laboratory of life.

“When?” What time is it? The text says this happened at night. This storm at night would be a frightening scene.

“Why” Why was this written? It is intended to teach us some important truths about faith. (James 1:6)

Wisdom: We may not understand what is happening, but trust that God understands it and that He is perfectly capable in all situations.

“Wherefore?” So what? Consider how well you listen to Jesus’ words. When He says, “Let’s go to the other side,” that’s exactly where you’re going, and you can trust Him for that.

Review: The Six Questions of Observation are: _____, _____,
_____, _____, _____, _____.

Effect: How do you see these questions affecting your personal Bible study? What is one important thing you learned in this section?

Notes:

Part Six: The Principles of Interpretation

Video Sessions 9 and 10

Good observation always produces excellent, accurate interpretation. Inaccurate interpretation produces illegitimate application. —Howard Hendricks

Activator: Looking back on your experience with the Scriptures, have you realized the connection between observation and accurate interpretation? Have you seen the results of an inaccurate interpretation leading to illegitimate application in ministries you've encountered?

Purpose: To present how to utilize the keys of interpretation in personal Bible study.

Knowledge for Insight: Acts 8:26-31 says Phillip was told by God to go to the chariot of the Ethiopian eunuch. When he arrived, he discovered that eunuch was reading from Isaiah 53. Phillip asks him, "Do you understand what you are reading?" The eunuch then made the most significant statement in terms of the process of Bible study: "How can I understand unless someone _____ me?"

🔑 **Key One: Content**

- Basic Rule: Spend more time in observation and less time in interpretation and your results will be more accurate. (The less time you spend in observation, the more time you will need to spend in interpretation and the less accurate your result will be.)
- Begin by examining the content through the process of observation.
- Look for: Repetition; Cause/Effect; Contrasts; Question and Answer
- Drench your mind with the passage.

Knowledge for Insight: Continued reading and perceptive meditation will constitute the _____ that the content is going to have on your interpretation.

🔑 **Key Two: Context**

- Notice that which goes before and that which follows. (Philippians 2:12)
- Look at the context to see the differences and details that the Holy Spirit wants to communicate to you.

☞ **Key Three: Comparison**

- Utilize a concordance. Note: Many Bibles have a brief concordance in the back, but a complete analytical concordance is best.
- Compare other Scriptures to add to your understanding, give meaning, and furnish additional light on the passage.
- Compare by collecting all the biblical perspectives on an event. Put those details together to see the larger picture.

☞ **Key Four: Culture**

Knowledge for Insight: Life does not exist in a vacuum; it exists within a culture. Culture teaches us _____ people did what they did and _____ they did it.

- Utilize a Bible dictionary in order to gain understanding on cultural interactions in the Bible.

☞ **Key Five: Consultation**

- Resources to consider: Bible Atlas (contains maps); Commentaries: What has God taught others?
- Always test your interpretation with other sources written by Spirit-filled Christians.

Knowledge for Insight: The fact that God is teaching you does not exclude the fact that He has taught _____.

Assignment: Study Romans 12:1,2 . Do your observation: Who? What? Where? When? Why? Wherefore? Do your interpretation: Content; Context; Comparison with a concordance; Relate the Scripture to the culture; Consult whatever sources you can find.

Part Seven: The Principles of Interpretation

Assignment Answers

Video Session 11

Scripture: Romans 12:1,2

Content

- Begin by relating this passage to the entire book
- Notice Paul begins with “I urge you.” (NIV) Why does he use that term? Why doesn’t he say: “I command you?” He has a compassionate concern. You can almost feel his heart beating as he gives this urgent exhortation. It’s not optional; it’s essential.
- Then Paul says: “present your bodies a living sacrifice” (NKVJ) What does that mean? (Luke 2:22; Romans 6)

Context

- Notice the passage begins with “Therefore.” Whenever you see a “therefore,” ask what it’s “there for.” “By the mercies of God” is a connection phrase. The entire first eleven chapters become the basis by which he makes this appeal.

Comparison

- Notice in verse 2, both a negative and a positive. “*Do not conform* to the pattern of this world, but *be transformed* by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

Culture

- Animal sacrifice: Paul is using this as a metaphor—just as in the Old Testament they presented an animal to God; now, they are presenting their bodies (presenting themselves) to God.

Consultation

- Build a good library: Endeavor to get dictionaries, atlases, a concordance, and every tool available. Ask God to help you obtain what you need.

Knowledge for Insight: More Bible study tools are available today than in the history of the church. We stand on the shoulders of hundreds of scholars and students of the Scripture. Don't minimize that. The key is the order. First the biblical text; then

_____.

Review: The five principles of interpretation are: _____,
_____, _____, _____, and
_____.

Effect: After considering these principles, will you change the way you interpret Scripture? How so?

Notes:

Part Eight: Understanding Application

Video Session 12

Many of us Christians are like poor photographs; we're overexposed and we're underdeveloped. —Howard Hendricks

Activator: Have you ever struggled to move from interpretation to application? How often to you consider application during your personal Bible study?

☛ **Key One:** Know

- Application is built on the interpretation.
- Remember: Wrong interpretation leads to wrong application. Make sure interpretation is accurate first, or risk illegitimate or even heretical applications.

Wisdom: The interpretation is one; the applications are many.

☛ **Key Two:** Relate

- Test your own life by the Scripture. Test it at home, the ultimate testing place.

☛ **Key Three: Meditate**

- Gain a mastery of God’s Word (Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:1; Psalm 119: 97)
- Memorize God’s Word for all situations in life. Remember: Jesus in His temptation said, “It is written” three times. Have the Word ready for anything that may arise.

Knowledge for Insight: Memorization of Scripture will put it _____ in your mind for times of crisis and temptation.

☛ **Key Four: Practice**

- Ask God to help you apply this truth today.
- Warning: Don’t ask Him to give you patience unless you are prepared for it.
- Take advantage of the innumerable opportunities to relate the truth of the Word to the life that you live in your society.

I have people ask, “Well, why did this (trial) happen to me?” I ask, “Well, how did you begin today?” And they say, “Well, I said, ‘Lord, use my life today, everything in it.’” I tell them, “That’s what He’s doing.” And when He begins to work, you wonder what happened. God will give you the opportunities. —Howard Hendricks

Review: The four keys to understanding *application* are _____,
_____, _____, _____.

Effect: Which of these do you find most difficult? What are some ways that you can develop in this area?

Notes:

Part Nine: Questions of Application

Video Session 13

Activator: Who in your life challenges you to go deeper in the process of being “transformed” by application? Who can you challenge that way?

Purpose: To present how to utilize questions of application in my Bible study.

☛ **Key One: Is There an Example to Follow?**

- “Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.” (1 Corinthians 11:1)
- Let the examples of Scripture characterize your life so you can be an example to others.

Knowledge for Insight: Regardless of whether you asked them to, your children, the people you are discipling, and the people in your church are following your _____.

☞ **Key Two:** Is There a Sin to Avoid? (Ephesians 5:5)

☞ **Key Three:** Is There a Promise to Claim? (Hebrews 13:5, Deuteronomy 31:6, 8; Joshua 1:5; Philippians 4: 13) Claim those promises.

☞ **Key Four:** Is There a Prayer to Repeat?

- Learn what God tells you to pray.
- Learn what Christ prayed to the Father. (John 17)
- Take advantage of every opportunity to pray the Scripture.

☞ **Key Five:** Is There a Command to Obey?

- Where to look: Application sections in the Gospels; Romans 12-16; Galatians 5 and 6; Ephesians 4-6; Colossians 3, 4
- Study the commands. Underline all of the commands given to us.

☞ **Key Six:** Is There a Condition to Meet? (John 15:7)

☞ **Key Seven:** Is There a Verse or a Passage to Memorize?

- Memorize as much as possible.

After being a Christian for seventy years, the greatest change in my life has come from the results of the Bible I have memorized. When I have been in the greatest crises of my life, these verses come back to me. They become working capital because I memorized them. But I can't use them if I haven't committed them to memory. And I would have to say to you, as an older Christian, the greatest regret of my life is I have not memorized more Scripture. —Howard Hendricks

☞ **Key Eight:** Is There a Challenge to Follow?

- Challenge: Apply the questions of application to Ezra 7:10.

Part Ten: Questions of Application

Assignment Answers

Video Session 14

Scripture: Ezra 7:10

Background of the Book of Ezra: The big picture.

- The book divides into two parts: Chapters 1-6 and 7-11.
- Between chapters 6 and 7 there is a fifty-eight-year time gap when one of the most important battles in Grecian history was happening—the battle of Salamis.
- The battle was completely passed over in silence in the Book of Ezra. Why? The most important thing that was happening during that fifty-eight-year period was that God was preparing a man named Ezra.
- Ezra became one of the most critical men in Israel’s history: a man of God with clear-cut objectives.
- In chapters 1-6 under Zerubbabel there is a rebuilding of the temple.
- In chapters 7-11 there is a rebuilding of the people.

Answers:

- Verse 10 begins with the connective “For”... “For Ezra had prepared his heart.” This is the secret of his success.
- What does it mean to prepare your heart? Notice the text gives *three verbs*: seek, do, and teach.

Wisdom: A person who knows the Word and who is practicing the Word is a person imminently capable of communicating the Word of God. The ultimate test of your communications is not just impartation of facts but also the transformation of life.

Review: You know now to ask yourself these questions in application:

- Is there an _____ to follow?
Is there a _____ to avoid?
Is there a _____ to claim?
Is there a _____ to pray?
Is there a _____ to obey?
Is there a _____ to meet?

Is there a _____ to memorize?
And is there a _____ to follow?

Effect: Which of these eight questions is the most difficult? How do you think you will address that? What is one important thing you've learned in the last two sections?

Notes:

Part Eleven: Where Do We Go from Here?

Video Session 15

Activator: Have you already thought of some practical ways to begin a more methodical Bible study? What kind of changes could you make?

Purpose: To become aware of how to practically implement this course into everyday life.

☛ **Key One:** Make a Decision—Establish a Regular Bible Study Program

- Study for a lifetime of ministry.
- Set time aside.
- Keep the commitment to the time you set aside.
- Don't take off too big a bite to begin. Start with smaller goals and gradually increase over time.

☛ **Key Two:** Develop a Personal Plan

- After committing to a set time, decide how you will spend that time.
- Commit to your plan and keep it.

Wisdom: If you do something once, you can do it twice. If you do it twice, you can do it three times. If you do it three times, you can form a habit out of it. And once you form a habit, then you've got something that's going to stay with you the rest of your life.

☛ **Key Three:** Study with a Group

- Find a collection of brothers or sisters who have developed the same passion and the same skills that you are in the process of developing.
- Make sure the individuals in your group are people who are passionate about studying the Word with a view to being changed by the Word.
- Encourage each other to become consistent.

- Motivate each other to keep going.
- Keep each other accountable, and love each other enough to ask the hard questions.
- Once the group is formed: Evaluate the process by asking three questions: What are the strengths of what I am doing? What are the weaknesses? What are the things I need to change on the basis of my evaluation?

I cannot think of anything I would encourage you more than not only to get into the Word, but also to get the Word into you, and watch the transformation of your life by the power of the Spirit through the powerful Word of God.
—Howard Hendricks

Effect: You've been encouraged to make a decision to establish a regular Bible study program, develop a personal plan, and study with a group. What kind of program would realistically work for you? Write down some ideas. How would you spend your study time? What is the right balance of study and prayer for you? Write down the names of people with whom you might want to study.

Notes:

In Conclusion: What are the three most valuable insights you gained from this course?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Write down any questions you still have. Pray and ask God to reveal the answers as you seek Him.

Knowledge for Insight Answers:

Part One: Bibles

Part Two: personal

Part Three: observe, application

Part Four: lost

Part Five: elements

Part Six: guides, impact, how, why, others

Part Seven: secondary sources

Part Eight: ready

Part Nine: example

DEVELOPING A SYNERGY PLAN

Doug Beacham

Dr. Doug Beacham is the Presiding Bishop and General Superintendent of the International Pentecostal Holiness Church (IPHC). Based in Oklahoma City, OK, the IPHC has more than two million members and affiliates in 103 countries, with missionaries serving in over ninety nations worldwide. Dr. Beacham is a former pastor and two-term Executive Director of IPHC's World Missions Ministries.

Course Summary

Developed from a video teaching by Doug Beacham, this course will explore the need for synergy among Christian leaders. In doing this, we will identify key components involved in the process of creating synergy among leaders.

Part One: What Is Synergy All About?

For us as the people of God, we're not building a corporation; we're not going in the new markets for economic purposes. We are at work in expanding the Kingdom of God. There is a call for us to be people who understand that we are spirit. We walk by the Spirit. We live by the Spirit. We are Spirit-driven for what God wants to accomplish in our midst.

—Doug Beacham

Activator: What do you think of when you hear the word “synergy?”

Purpose: To define synergy as it relates to the Church of Jesus Christ.

🔑 **Key:** What Is Synergy All About?

- Based on a Greek word, commonly used in the New Testament world.
- Having a sense of what God is calling us to do; goals and objectives that emerge from working together, developing ideas, and a sense of partnership.
- Taking action, putting aside agendas, fears, and insecurities, and coming to a place where we get released to work together.
- Multiplying factor: Multiplication by the work of the Holy Spirit. (Zechariah 4:6).
- Synergy is a sum that is greater than our individual parts—more than addition, but a work of the Spirit to create something fresh out of all of us together.

Effect: Are you at a place where you are ready to put all agendas aside and join with other leaders? What do you hope to learn about developing a synergy plan?

Notes:

Part Two: Biblical Framework for Synergy

Video Sessions 2-4

We have our differences. But in the final analysis we are all saved by the blood of Jesus Christ. As Paul says in Ephesians, there is one Lord, one faith, one baptism that holds us together regardless of our particular differences or our particular and unique histories. We are God's men at work in shaping us and forming us for the season that He has called us to serve. —Doug Beacham

Activator: What examples do we have in Scripture of synergy between New Testament believers?

Purpose: To provide an overview of the biblical framework for synergy based on Paul's teachings.

☞ **Key One:** Relationship with Fellow Workers

- Model: Paul's relationship with fellow workers.

☞ **Key Two:** Leadership Style with Fellow Workers

- Model: Paul addressing challenges in the church and the questioning of his authority. (2 Corinthians 1:23,24)

Knowledge for Insight: _____ is a critical factor in whether or not synergy will occur.

- Ask God what He is saying to you about your unique leadership style in relationship with other leaders.
- Ask God what needs to be addressed, sharpened, put forward, about your leadership style.
- Seek understanding of what God is doing to shape you and how He wants to use you.

☞ **Key Three:** Two Theological Constructs of Synergy

- God initiates synergy for His purposes.
- We are fellow workers with God. (2 Corinthians 6:1). Christ is at work in us through His Spirit; we should take care not to receive grace in vain.

☞ **Key Four:** Submitting to Spiritual Leadership of Fellow Workers
(1 Corinthians 16:16)

Effect: What do you recognize about your own leadership style? How well do you work with other leaders? What area would you like to improve in? (For example: recognizing God's calling, submitting to other leaders.)

Notes:

Part Three: Synergy Among Leaders

Video Sessions 5-8

We've got to understand, this is God's work that we are involved in. This is not a programmatic venture that was created in London, on Wall Street, in Los Angeles, or in Geneva. This is something that God is at work doing through us. We've got to understand that there is a corporate dimension and there is a personal dimension for us as leaders. If we can come at it from a theological framework, we understand that this is bigger than us. It is bigger than our own organization; it is bigger than our own agendas.
—Doug Beacham

Activator: In what ways have you seen God work when believers of different backgrounds came together?

Purpose: To explore the need for synergy among leaders in the Body of Christ today.

☞ **Key One:** Theology Demands Synergy in the Gifts of the Spirit

- Recognize the reality of the gifts of the Spirit as they are related to the Body of Christ. (Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, 27, 28; Ephesians 4:1-16)
- We need to affirm our need for one another.
- Remember, we are all earthen vessels. (2 Corinthians 4:7)

☞ **Key Two:** Theology Demands That We Are Witnesses

- Death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is the core of the Gospel. (1 Corinthians 15:3,4)
- Everything about the Christian life roots itself in the Gospel; out of those truths the Great Commission flows.
- Synergistic efforts must be focused on advancing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 2 and 3)
- Synergistic efforts are visible in various social and governmental networks and reflect the grace of God given to us in this Gospel.

☞ **Key Three:** The Nature of the Church

- Bear witness to the manifold wisdom of God. (Ephesians 3:10; Ephesians 1:18)
- Our synergistic efforts demonstrate more than cooperative human endeavor; they bear witness to the world that the power of the Gospel is real; that the Church is greater than the frailties of those who stand in our pulpits and sit in the pews.

☛ **Key Four:** The Nature of Our Unity – What are Our Essentials?

- Human need and effective missions have to take precedence over certain theological differences.
- For effective synergy to occur there must be: 1) Agreement regarding the core of the Gospel and the reality of the mission; 2) Acceptance of differences.

Knowledge for Insight: Synergy is not compromise. It is about finding places of common _____.

☛ **Key Five:** The Nature of Our Unity – The Reality of Diversity

- Diversity of organizations, practices, and beliefs.
- New movements of the Holy Spirit reach several “unreached people groups” who can only be reached when leaders work together.
- The mission of the Gospel is greater than our differences.

Effect: How would you describe the importance of having synergy with other leaders? What points in this section on “The Need for Synergy” were most meaningful to you?

Notes:

Part Four: The Basis for Synergy

Video Sessions 9-10

Synergy does not occur on its own initiative. It only occurs within the context of genuine human interaction. And from a spiritual sense [it occurs within], genuine human interaction that is informed and shaped by the Holy Spirit. —Doug Beacham

Activator: What do you think leaders could do to interact with each other in a positive and effective way?

Purpose: To identify three components of the basis for synergy.

Knowledge for Insight: Among leaders of different groups, the most important factor in establishing a basis of synergy is the establishing of _____ relationships.

☞ **Key One: Relationships**

- Require Time; Learn names; Build trust in relationships

☞ **Key Two: Intentionality**

- Enter into synergistic relationships with a sense of a need for the others.
- Communicates putting real practice into theological understanding of what God is doing.
- Our view of the Body of Christ determines our intentions with other believers—requires humility.
- The Holy Spirit is the only power that can break pride, self-assertion, and defensiveness.

☞ **Key Three: Bringing Together Word, Prayer, Worship, and Intimacy**

- We gather as disciples who are worshipers of God who have committed ourselves to be under the authority of God.
- There is significance in leaders gathering under the voice of Scriptures.
- We are challenged and united around the voice of God rather than the voices of men.
- We come as individuals under the Word, and we leave as brothers and sisters who desire to be addressed by God.
- Only the Holy Spirit can create that intimacy—it cannot be created in the natural realm.

Effect: Which of the three components would you like to be more active in your life? What are your thoughts on how you might utilize these components in your own life?

Notes:

Part Five: Leaders – The Key to Synergy

Video Sessions 11 and 12

Activator: Which Christian leaders have you seen have major influence in the Christian world? How do they work with other leaders?

Purpose: To identify the four key components for leaders that are essential in developing synergy.

🔑 **Key One:** Relationships That Affect Movements

- Begin among top leaders.
- Leaders reflect the values and vision and spiritual DNA of their organization.
- Leaders have the best sense of what God is doing in their area.
- Involvement with other leaders gives recognition that the endeavor is legitimate and gives permission for others to join in.

🔑 **Key Two:** Discover Teachable Spirits

- Identify those who are more open and able and willing to be stretched in their thinking.
- Find those who have a common spirit.

Knowledge for Insight: Having a teachable spirit does not mean a person is like a blank page. Rather, it means they are able to process new _____ with truth, love, and grace.

- Develop a teachable spirit in yourself by recognizing that God has something to teach you through other leaders.

🔑 **Key Three:** Model Theological Constructs of Service

- Follow Paul's example of how to interact with fellow workers.
- Bring a servant-leader model.
- Do not be focused on dominion or being recognized.

🔑 **Key Four:** Leaders Are Links

- We are links between past and future.
- We are links between generations.
- We are links of the presence of the Holy Spirit among others.

Effect: Which of the four components would you like to develop more in your life?
Write down thoughts on how you might begin to focus on these components in your life.

Notes:

Part Six: Spiritual Challenges

Video Sessions 13 and 14

Satan uses our own personal weaknesses to stand in the way of effective synergy with one another. The good news is that in every instance, as Jude 24 says, Christ is able to keep us from falling. —Doug Beacham

Activator: What spiritual challenges prevent leaders from forming healthy and lasting relationships? Have you witnessed such barriers in your context?

Purpose: To identify the spiritual challenges that face leaders in their efforts to create synergy.

☞ **Key One:** Pride and Insecurity (Overcome with Mercy and Grace)

- Pride is rooted in a false sense of self-sufficiency, but also in a deep sense of inferiority.
- Synergistic relationships reveal that we all live by mercy and grace.

☞ **Key Two:** Arrogance and Isolation (Overcome with Repentance and Relationships)

- Arrogance is when we believe that the normal rules of behavior apply to everyone but us.
- Arrogance leads people to blindness and self-justification.
- Caution: A pastor that is unwilling to meet with and be in relationship with other pastors likely has a deep spiritual problem.
- We must remember that we are first disciples of Jesus Christ, then leaders.
- Being a disciple starts at home with your spouse and children.
- Leaders break through by living in the spirit of repentance. (Mark 1:15)

☞ **Key Three:** Fear and Intimidation (Overcome with Love and Community)

- Fear stands in the way of relationships.
- God's love becomes the framework in which we love one another.
- God's love is at the foundation of everything He does.
- We should model covenant love that is revealed in the covenant given by Jesus Christ.
- Love sets us free from the dominion of fear.
- Community – Coming together with profound sense of the Body of Christ.
- Community comes together and washes away fear and intimidation by the reality of God's love.

Review: Pride and insecurity are overcome by _____ and _____ . Arrogance and isolation are overcome by _____ and _____. Fear and intimidation are overcome by _____ and _____ .

Effect: Which of these challenges need more attention in your life and ministry? Write down the areas in which you want to see growth in your life and ministry. (Mercy, grace, repentance, relationships, love, community.)

Notes:

Part Seven: The Impact

Activator: What does it look like when Christian leaders decide to love each other? How would the world perceive it?

Purpose: To highlight the work of the love of Christ among leaders.

🔑 **Key:** Overcoming with Love

- Synergistic relationships demonstrate the love of Christ and have eternal significance. (John 13:34)
- Leaders have responsibility to stand together in synergistic relationship for the sake of the advancement of the Kingdom of God.

Effect: How could you create more synergy in existing and new relationships? What will be your next steps towards synergizing with other leaders?

Notes:

In Conclusion: What are the three most valuable insights you gained from this course?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Write down any questions you still have. Pray and ask God to reveal the answers as you seek Him.

Knowledge for Insight Answers:

Part Two: leadership style

Part Three: agreement

Part Four: genuine

Part Five: idea

CRAFTING A GLOBAL NETWORKING CHURCH

Suliasi Kurulo

Rev. Suliasi Kurulo is Senior Pastor of World Harvest Centre in Suva, Fiji. He is also Founder and President of Christian Mission Fellowship International, a fast-growing, church-planting, world mission-focused movement that originated in the Fiji Islands and is now established in more than one hundred nations. CMFI has a specific goal of reaching the world's most unreached communities with the Gospel.

Course Summary

Developed from a video teaching by Suliasi Kurulo, this course explores how to develop and build a church with a global network. In doing this, we will identify pillars necessary to achieve that goal. We will also consider some practical ways to transition into global missions.

Part One: Introduction

Video Session 1

If you really want to plant something that only lasts for a season, then you have to plant flowers. If you want to plant something that lasts a lifetime, then you plant trees. But if you really want to plant something that will last forever, then you plant churches.

—Suliasi Kurulo

Activator: Do you think most pastors and leaders see church planting as an essential part of the Great Commission? Why or why not?

Purpose: To provide an overview of the role of church planting in the Great Commission.

Terms: *Global Networked Church: A church that has a vision to fulfill the Great Commission and is intentional about developing a synergistic strategy to plant churches and network with the global church of Jesus Christ.*

🔑 **Key:** Church Planting and the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20)

- God has entrusted us with a task far bigger than a local church can accomplish: We are commissioned to produce disciples and to disciple nations.
- The most effective way of fulfilling the Great Commission is planting networked churches.
- Evangelism must be combined with church planting to be effective long term. (See John 4:35; Matthew 9:38)
- In John chapter 15, Jesus said that we must be fruit-bearing people: We must bear quality fruit, more fruit, and *fruit that lasts*.

Knowledge for Insight: The most powerful institution in the world today is not the United Nations. The most powerful institution in the world today is not the European Union. The most powerful institution in the world today is _____.

- We must remember, Jesus said He is *building* His church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it. (See Matthew 16:18)

Effect: As we begin the course, write down your questions about crafting a global networked church. Review them at the end of the course to see what questions remain.

Notes:

Part Two: The Pillars – Vision

Video Session 2

I really believe the church must be based on a vision. It must not be based on a personality, or a person, or a history, or an experience that we [had] in life or in ministry.
—Suliasi Kurulo

Activator: How does a pastor decide on the vision for the church? In what ways can a vision be clearly communicated to a church body?

Purpose: To explain how vision builds and develops a networked church.

🔑 Key One: The “Musts”

- The vision must originate from God.
- The vision must be birthed by the grace of God in our hearts.
- The vision must be bigger than what one person can accomplish.
- The vision must include the Great Commission: the assignment that God has given to the church.

🔑 Key Two: The Vision Guides the Church

Knowledge for Insight: A vision gives purpose, direction, and guidance towards the _____.

- Make sure the church understands the vision.
- Write the vision so people can read it, understand it, and then believe in it.
- The church should run with the vision (not walk).
- The church’s focus should be on what God has said in the vision.
- Make the vision the plumb line for the church:
- Important: The vision was given by God to give the church a clear purpose and a clear identity, which should be evident to everyone inside and outside the church.

Effect: Which of the “musts” does your current vision fulfill? Evaluate your vision and its role in your church: Which of the criteria above does it meet? Write down any thoughts about ways your vision can effectively guide your church.

Notes:

Part Three: The Pillars – Relationship

Video Sessions 2 and 3

Jesus said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.” (Matthew 22:37-40)

Activator: What activities in the Christian life develop quality loving relationships?

Purpose: To explain how relationships build and develop a networked church.

☞ **Key One:** Connect through Prayer

- Prayer produces intimacy with God.
- Prayer produces intimacy with people with whom we pray.
- Prayer produces intimacy with the lost, the world to which we are reaching out.

Wisdom: Out of relationship we can better flow together, fulfilling the vision that God has birthed in our hearts for the church.

☞ **Key Two:** Connect through The Word

- Sharing in the Scriptures connects believers to God and to each other.
- Suggestion: Look for ways to share Scripture with your church. (Example: Send out daily texts or daily devotionals.)

☞ **Key Three:** Encourage Each Other in Faith

- Encourage and emphasize dependence not on oneself, but on God.
- Help church members to see participation as a “faith exercise” that unites, develops, and cultivates greater faith.

☞ **Key Four:** Walk in Love

- Developing quality relationships is one of the most important parts of your Christian walk.
- Be sensitive to the need to walk in greater love. Many people in the church have been hurt by other Christians.
- Treat fellow servants with respect, dignity, greater honor, and care. (John 13:35)
- Put an extra effort forward to restore broken relationships.

Wisdom: We must always value relationships. God's anointing flows from the top down, but it can only flow freely amongst us when we have quality relationships.

☞ **Key Five:** Filter through Relationships

- Filter invitations for ministry. Do you know the people well? Do any of your friends know them well?
- Filter those who want to minister in your church. Remember, it takes years to build a strong church but only a short time for a minister with a wrong agenda to ruin the church.

I really believe we need to develop and cultivate this area of building quality relationships among ourselves and also among the body of Christ.
—Suliasi Kurulo

Effect: Which points in this section were meaningful for you and why? How might you utilize these points on relationship in your church?

Notes:

Part Four: The Pillars – Missions

Video Session 4

We must always put world missions as our priority. When we talk about “missions,” we are not talking about different methods, different models, and different ministries, or different measurements that we use to reach out to the community or to reach the lost. When we talk about mission, we are talking about the very heartbeat of God. We are talking about the very life of God. So when you cut mission away from the life of the local church, you are cutting away the very life of God, the very heartbeat of God.
—Suliasi Kurulo

Activator: Why do you think Suliasi Kurulo calls world missions “the heartbeat of God?”

Purpose: To explain how missions build and develop a networked church.

☞ **Key One:** Missions, God's Heartbeat

- Everything we do must be connected to the fulfillment of the Great Commission, and therefore, missions.
- We need to help people connect to missions through their talents, treasures, and resources.
- Jesus said that this Gospel of the Kingdom will be preached into the *whole world*, as a witness, and then the end will come.

☛ **Key Two: Create Awareness – The Five I’s**

- **Information:** Keep people informed about the unreached.
- **Identification:** Give opportunity for people to identify with unreached people groups.
- **Involvement:** Encourage praying, reaching out, connecting with the lives and hearts of people.
- **Investment:** Invest time, talents, and resources in the unreached.
- **Increase:** Involvement in missions allows people to increase in their spiritual lives; Involvement in missions allows the church to increase its ministry, its impact in the Kingdom of God, and to see more people come to Christ.

Effect: How will your church priorities match up with the fulfillment of the Great Commission through missions? Which of the Five I’s do you need to implement in your church?

Notes:

Part Five: The Pillars – Training

Video Session 5

I believe that training is the backbone of every development. We must train and equip workers before we release them into ministry. —Suliasi Kurulo

Activator: Why do you think training is considered one of the pillars of building and developing a networked church?

Purpose: To explain how training builds and develops a networked church.

☛ **Key One: Training Workers**

- Training should involve a system or a process for workers to go through before they are released into the mission field.
- Training should be both short term and long term.

☛ **Key Two: Training of Trainers**

- Most important training for reproduction (the training of trainers has been a missing link in many ministries).

- When missionary workers are sent out, they should be sent as trainers: To train and raise up the local people to become leaders who can in turn train others; To identify issues and questions that arise in the field and develop better training materials.

☛ **Key Three: Train from Within the Church**

- Make your church your home base for training.

We have to make sure that these workers are well trained, well equipped, and ready to do the task that is before them. I really believe that this is a very important process; that it has to continuously be rolling and going in the life of the local church. Not only training and releasing our people into ministry, but also training trainers so that they will go and reproduce themselves in the hearts and the lives of others. —Suliasi Kurulo

Effect: Which points in this section may affect the way you approach training in the future?

Notes:

Part Six: Pillars – A Development Plan

Video Sessions 6-8

It was about two years ago when I looked back and I realized that age was catching up with me. In eight years' time, I would turn sixty. I looked back over my life and I said, "As a leader, as a pastor of our church, what do I really want to see the church be in eight years' time?" After much prayer and thinking and talking with our leaders, we came up with five areas that need to be developed so that we can see the church as it ought to be in eight years' time. We put up what we called an "Eight Year Corporate Church Development Plan." —Suliasi Kurulo

Activator: What do you think would be the benefits of a development plan?

Purpose: To explain how a development plan builds and develops a networked church.

☛ **Key One: Develop People**

Knowledge for Insight: The greatest assets the church has are the _____.

- Spiritual development
- Character development
- Development of skills
- Development of strong families
- Economic development

When God comes into your life, He changes you from inside out. He changes every area of our lives. God wants to prosper us spiritually. He also wants to prosper us in our relationships. He also wants to prosper us intellectually. He also wants to prosper us financially. —Suliasi Kurulo

🔑 **Key Two: Develop Ministries**

- Create and print training manuals for the areas of ministry that already exist so training can be easily reproduced for seasons to come.
- Identify and help to develop the gifts, the talents, and abilities of the people.
- Develop need-oriented ministries based on the community around the church.

🔑 **Key Three: Develop Organization**

Knowledge for Insight: The church is a living organism through which the life of Christ flows. For an organism to grow and develop, it needs _____.

- Form a structure that allows the church to be effective.
- The structure must be made in a way that accommodates growth and development.
- Don't be afraid to restructure the structure of the church as it changes.

🔑 **Key Four: Develop Infrastructure**

- Make sure that all of your properties, all of your churches, and your all of your schools are well maintained.
- Look at building, renovations, and expansions.
- Equip churches with modern technology.
- Review infrastructure – Bring in members who have skills as engineers and architects.

🔑 **Key Five: Develop Finances**

- Tithes and offerings are not enough to reach the world with the Gospel.
- Develop sustainable, income-generating businesses in the community.

- Establish trust funds for profits to finance church projects.
- Motivate, encourage, and equip people to rise above what they normally do and go into the marketplace with a purpose.
- Suggestion: Encourage parents to provide three things for their children: faith, an education, and training in a business. (Many people are trained to have a job, but it is better to be trained to own a business.)
- God has given His people the ability to create wealth for the Great Commission; we have enough wisdom, ideas, and creativity.
- When we invest our finances in the Great Commission our hearts will be there also. (See Matthew 6:21)

Review: The areas of development are:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Effect: Write down the areas you plan to develop more fully. Which points do you plan to utilize for your ministry?

Notes:

Final Review: The Pillars are:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Part Seven: Interview with Suliasi Kurulo

Video Sessions 9-15

Purpose: To highlight some concluding thoughts for pastors who are moving towards building and developing a global networked church.

☞ **Key One:** Developing a Mind-set to Build a Global Network

- The right mind-set is birthed out of: An intimate relationship with God; Prayer; Hearing God.
- Real motivation comes from the burden God places within you and knowing He will fulfill the desires of your heart.

☞ **Key Two:** Cultivating a Desire to Build a Global Network

- This desire will always come out of spending time with God.
- Seek to desire what is in God's heart. (Isaiah 11:9)

☞ **Key Three:** Moving towards Global Missions *(For the pastor who wants to move his church towards global missions.)*

- Experience what missions is all about. Take a short trip in order to: Enlarge your vision; Deepen your compassion for the lost; Broaden your commitment; Stretch your faith; Fill your heart with joy when you realize how you can contribute to their lives.
- The most effective way to move towards global missions: Spend time with people who are already doing it.
- There must be a paradigm shift from denominational perspective to kingdom perspective.
- Consider attending a mission's conference.

☞ **Key Four:** Making Plans for the Future of the Church

- Consider a retreat to clearly hear the voice of God.
- Take time to reassess: Where the church is at the present; Where the church can improve; What already exists that can be built on.
- Take time to think through plans.
- Consider the people who are already part of your church and how to develop and train them. They will become your future leaders.
- Focus on building a platform for the future generation.
- When you have made plans, take the first step. If you don't move forward, people won't move forward.

One thing that I have started to realize is that everything only lasts for a season. I am in this leadership, but I am only here for a season. While I am in the prime of my life, I have to give it all. —Suliasi Kurulo

Effect: What inspired you most in this section?

Notes:

About the World Harvest Center:

The World Harvest Center has planted more than three thousand churches around the world, many among the unreached people groups. Between 300,000 and 350,000 people have come to Christ through its ministry. What's next? The goal is to see people reached for Jesus Christ in every nation in the world in the next fifteen years.

In Conclusion: What are the three most valuable insights you gained from this course?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Write down any questions you still have. Pray and ask God to reveal the answers as you seek Him.

Knowledge for Insight Answers:

Part One: the church of Jesus Christ

Part Two: future

Part Six: people, organization

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