

Course Description: Ministry Foundations has been designed to be a one week introduction and examination of life in vocational ministry. While not a theology class, we will address the theological foundation of a life in the Gospel. In addition we will be addressing key areas of ministry life: social, spiritual, physical, psychological and structural. We will be reviewing practical examples and assessing the day to day skills needed in ministry. We will also address foundational practices needed in the early days of ministry in order to help you start well. This class will involve some frank discussions about the failures of those in ministry and the true difficulties of life in vocational ministry. My hope is that because of our time together you may live worthy of the calling you have received (Ephesians 4:1)

Course Objectives: Be – Know –Do. By the end of this course the student will be challenged as to their character and suitability for ministry. They will know the basic nature and demands of vocational Christian ministry. They will be equipped with a basic tool kit to do the work of ministry.

Course Requirements

I. Knowledge Paper. Due Wednesday morning. No sources allowed.

II. “A work on D time” project, due Thursday afternoon.

IV. Reading – Due date set by NBC. Class text. Please submit your text book with highlights, questions, notes and thoughts. **Flawed Church, Faithful God: A Reformed Ecclesiology for the Real World by Joseph D. Small.**

Grading

- 1st Day Knowledge Questions: 25%
- “A work on D time” project: 45%
- Reading: 15%
- Class Participation: 15%

Class Notes.

- 1) Your personal interaction and involvement is crucial to the success of this class. Please do not come to class tired or disengaged. Get the rest you need and come prepared to be active in class. Since this is a small class your interaction is all the more crucial.
- 2) All papers will only be accepted in Times New Roman, 12 points, 1½ line spacing, 1 inch margins, end notes & cover page required.
- 3) Feel free to bring whatever refreshments or distractions you need.
- 4) Class dress is business casual so no t-shirts. If you are uncertain of the definition of business casual please look it up.
- 5) You will be provided with all class notes so note taking will be minimal.
- 6) Class Schedule is Monday – Friday. We will be taking 10-15 minute breaks every hour.
- 7) Some of what we will be discussing and sharing is confidential in nature. Therefore by coming to class you agree that you will protect and prevent the disclosure of confidential material, whether by oral or written means. What is said in class, stays in class unless withholding of such information would result in the criminal harm of an individual.

8) Rabbit trails, random questions and personal opinions are strongly encouraged but the extent of them will determine the amount of time available to cover the class material. Please remember just because we disagree with each other doesn't mean we don't still like each other.

Projects

1. Knowledge Questions: Twelve questions that are an introductory test of your Biblical and cultural knowledge. You may not use any sources for this project, only what is in your head. I want to know what you know, not what you can look up.
2. "A work on D time". Much of ministry requires you to produce quality work on very limited time. This project is a test of your ability to do so.

You may choose one of six presentations.

1. A VBS Bible Story lesson. The content should be typical VBS material. Your target age group is 6-10 year olds.
2. Youth Group Weekend Retreat. You are the guest speaker at a typical youth group weekend. The organizers have been very generous and have allowed you to pick the subject. This is the evening message.
3. College & Career Sunday Night. As the new Pastor the church's C&C group has asked you to speak to them at their Sunday Night mixer.
4. Men's or Women's Night Out. You are the guest speaker at either a Men's or Women's Night out. You may select either setting regardless of your gender.
5. Funeral. You have been asked to speak at the funeral of a community Member. If you choose this one I will give you the details of the individual.
6. Wedding: You will be doing a community couples wedding. You must plan the entire ceremony and the message component.

Requirements.

- You must use some form of multimedia/visual aide. Movie or You Tube clips cannot be more than 2-3 minutes in length. You can use mime, interpretive dance, object lesson, puppets, drama, overheads, a musical component or anything you can creatively come up with. When in doubt check with me.
 - Your presentation must be a minimum of 30 minutes in length.
 - You will be presenting these in class.
 - **You may not spend more than four hours in preparation.**
 - Please submit a hard copy of your notes/presentation material. On the last page you must note what time you began your work and what time you ended.
 - Your classmates will be given a marking rubric to grade you.
3. Reading: Please submit your text with underlining and margin notes.
 4. Class Participation.
 - a. I understand that we all have different temperaments and cultural backgrounds so I am sympathetic with how we engage in class. Regardless of this you will be expected to share regularly in class. I will be asking you a lot of questions about your experiences, history and understanding of life so come prepared to be vulnerable and open. Your opinions matter and you bring a significant component to this class.