



Personal Spiritual Development: MIRACLE HOUSE OF HOPE MINISTRIES

Pastor Bruce Little

Licensed Pastoral Counselor

Miracle House of Hope Ministries prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students will explore the processes and goals of spiritual formation in the life of a Christian. Students are introduced to the spiritual disciplines and practices of the Christian faith that promote intimacy with God and a Christ-like character. The goal is to foster ongoing personal vitality essential to the Christian life. Major assignments include selecting and practicing a spiritual discipline throughout the semester, with the desire to continue this engagement after the semester. *Prerequisite: None*

COURSE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES (CSLOs)

At the conclusion of the semester, the student will demonstrate:

1. An understanding of the importance of gathering weekly with other believers.
2. A value of spiritual health in themselves and others.
3. A practice of spiritual disciplines throughout the semester.

COURSE TEXTS

The following textbooks are required:

- Foster, Richard J. *Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth*. Special Anniversary Edition. 3rd ed. New York: HarperCollins, 2018.
- Foster, Richard J. *Celebrating the Disciplines: A Workbook Journal to Accompany Celebration of Discipline*. New York: HarperCollins, 1992.
- Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *The Cost of Discipleship*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1995.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Implementation Project(10%)
Each student will participate in guided implementation of the disciplines studied. *This assignment relates to CSLOs #1 and #3.*

2. Required Reading (20%)
Each student is to read the required textbooks (Richard Foster's *Celebration of Discipline* and Bonhoeffer's *The Cost of Discipleship*) in their entirety. **A Reading Acknowledgement Statement is to be submitted as noted in the Course Outline below.** *This assignment relates to CSLOs #2 and #3.*

3. The Cost of Discipleship Quote Journal (20%)
Each student is to keep a written journal noting specific quotes that were meaningful, challenging, or requiring further thought from the reading of *The Cost of Discipleship*. *This assignment relates to CSLOs #2 and #3.*

4. Discipleship Summation/Reflection Paper (20%)
Each student will write a guided summation and reflection paper which includes matters such as lessons learned, concepts to be explored, and decisions made for implementation. The paper is due at the end of the semester. *This assignment relates to CSLO #3.*

5. Celebration of Discipline Journal (30%)
Each student is responsible for engaging with Richard Foster's *Celebration of Discipline* journal on a weekly basis, recording the weekly engagement on a journal log provided by the professor. The journal log will be submitted as noted on the *Course Outline* below. *This assignment relates to CSLOs #2 and #3.*

GRADING

Devotional	5%
Required Reading	20%
Movie Reflection	10%
Practice of a Spiritual Discipline	50%
<i>Celebration of Discipline Journal</i>	15%

GRADING SCALE

A: 93 - 100
B: 85 - 92
C: 77 – 84
D: 70 – 76
F: below 70

COURSE OUTLINE

Week	Week of	Topic	Reading from Foster*	Reading from Bonhoeffer
1	Month / Date	Intro to Course Biblical Basis of Discipleship		
2	Month / Date	The Inward Disciplines: The Spiritual Discipline of <i>Reading and</i>	Foster, chs. 2 & 5	1. Grace and Discipleship 1 Costly Grace

		<i>Studying the Bible</i>		
3	Month / Date	The Spiritual Disciplines of		2 The Call to Discipleship

		<i>Journaling and Learning</i>		
4	Month / Date	The Spiritual Discipline of <i>Prayer</i>	Foster, ch. 3	3 Single-minded Obedience 4 Discipleship and the Cross
5	Month / Date	The Spiritual Discipline of <i>Fasting</i>	Foster, ch. 4	5 Discipleship and the Individual II The Sermon on the Mount 6 The Beatitudes
6	Month / Date	The Outward Disciplines: The Spiritual Discipline of <i>Simplicity</i>	Foster, ch. 6	7 The Visible Community 8 The Righteousness of Christ
7	Month / Date	The Spiritual Discipline of <i>Silence and Solitude</i>	Foster, ch. 7	9 The Brother 10 Woman 11 Truthfulness
8	Month / Date	The Spiritual Disciplines of <i>Submission</i> and <i>Service</i>	Foster, chs. 8 & 9	12 Revenge 13 The Enemy 14 The Hidden Righteousness
9	Month / Date	The Spiritual Discipline of <i>Stewardship/ Evangelism</i>		15 The Hiddenness of Prayer 16 The Hiddenness of the Devout Life 17 The Simplicity of the Carefree Life
10	Month / Date	The Spiritual Discipline of <i>Disciple Making</i>		18 The Disciple and Unbelievers 19 The Great Divide

11	Month / Date	The Corporate Disciplines: The Spiritual Discipline of <i>Confession</i>	Foster, ch. 10	20 The Conclusion III The Messengers 21 The Harvest
12	Month / Date	The Spiritual Discipline of <i>Worship</i>	Foster, ch. 11	22 The Apostles 23 The Work
13	Month / Date	The Spiritual Discipline of <i>Guidance</i>	Foster, ch. 12	24 The Suffering of the Messengers 25 The Decision
14	Month / Date	The Spiritual Discipline of <i>Celebration</i>	Foster, ch. 13	26 The Fruit
	Month / Date / Time	Sharing of Journey Practicing the Spiritual Disciplines		

*Students are expected to read the required text in its entirety. A reading acknowledgment statement is due on the final day of class.

ADDITIONAL COURSE INFORMATION

1. Attendance Policy: Miracle House of Hope Ministries mandates daily Bible Study.
2. Policy for Late Submissions: All assignments are to be submitted as indicated in the *Course Requirements* section. Late assignments will be assessed an initial 5-point penalty and 1 point for each additional day, including weekends, after the due date.
3. Plagiarism Policy: A high standard of personal integrity is expected of all Miracle House of Hope Ministries students. Copying another person's work, submitting downloaded material without proper references, submitting material without properly citing the source, submitting the same material for credit in more than one course, and committing other such forms of dishonesty are strictly forbidden. *Although anything cited in three sources is considered public domain, we require that all sources be cited.* Any infraction may result in failing the assignment and the course. Any infraction will be reported to the Pastor for further action.
4. Classroom and Online Decorum: Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior. The student is expected to interact with other students in a fashion that will promote learning and respect for the opinions of the others in the course. A spirit of Christian charity is expected at all times.

5. Special Needs: If you need accommodations for a disability, please set up a meeting with the professor for consideration of any modifications you may need.
6. Emergency Plan: In the event the NOBTS schedule is impacted due to a natural event, go to the seminary's website for pertinent information. Class will continue as scheduled through the Blackboard site. Please note announcements and assignments on the course's Blackboard site.
7. Technical Assistance: For general NOBTS technical help, go to www.NOBTS.edu/itc/
8. Style Guide: A copy of the approved NOBTS Style Guide can be found in the course Blackboard shell, or can be located online at the Writing Center's page on the seminary website at: https://www.nobts.edu/_resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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———. *Life in the Presence of God: Practices for Living in Light of Eternity*. Downer's Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2017.

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Peterson, Eugene. *Eat This Book: A Conversation in the Art of Spiritual Reading*. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2006.

Smith, James K. A. *On the Road with Saint Augustine: A Real-World Spirituality for Restless Hearts*. Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2019.

Tozer, A. W. *The Pursuit of God*. Updated edition. Abbotsford, WI: Aneko Press, 2015.

Whitney, Donald S. *Praying the Bible*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2015.

———. *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2014.

Willard, Dallas. *The Divine Conspiracy: Rediscovering Our Hidden Life in God*. New York: HarperCollins, 1998.

———. *Renovation of the Heart: Putting On the Character of Christ*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2002.

———. *The Spirit of the Disciplines: Understanding How God Changes Lives*. New York: HarperCollins, 1988.