



Course Syllabus

BUILDING THE CHURCH THROUGH SMALL GROUPS PAST 0644, SPIR 0644

Fall 2011

Mondays Sept. 12- December 05: 8:30 AM to 11:20am

INSTRUCTOR:

Dr. David Sherbino

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To access your course materials at the start of the course, please go to
<https://www.mytyndale.ca>

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Basic principles for building small groups and understanding the dynamics and problems of small groups will be explored. Specific attention will focus on leadership development through the experience of leading a small group, and the practical ways to blend spiritual direction into the small group format.

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. to understand the importance of leaders who build community within the congregation.
2. to learn to interpret what lay leaders are to do, so that the pastoral staff can feel confident that everyone is on the same team.
3. to become aware of new methods of developing the lay leadership of a local congregation.
4. to be able to discuss and track the care system of a congregation.
5. to begin to implement the spiritual disciplines as part of the small group experience

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Students are to read the following texts, and provide a one-page critique of each book read. It is particularly helpful if you focus on one critical issue as it relates

to small groups.

- a. Donahue, B., and R. Robinson. Building a Church of Small Groups. Zondervan, 2002.
- b. George, Carl. Nine Keys to Effective Small Group Leadership. Kingdom, 1997.
- c. Webb, Heather. Small Group Leadership as Spiritual Direction. Zondervan, 2005.

DUE: Oct. 17 2011

30%

2. Write a 3 page paper on your philosophy of ministry and how small groups would fit with your philosophy.

DUE: Nov. 7 2011

20%

3. Design a training workbook to be used as part of the small group leadership program in your church. Make this workbook as attractive as possible for a lay audience. If your church has different types of groups already in existence, focus in one group. This paper should reflect careful thinking about the nature of small groups and the particular context of this presentation.

Include:

1. A brief description of the church and the context in which the material will be used
2. A biblical and theological basis for small groups
3. Design the book in such a way that leaders who use this material will know how to lead a small group.

DUE: Dec. 5 2011

50%

- All reports and papers are to be typewritten.
- With reference to questions of format, style and mechanics, all assignments are to be prepared according to the standards in K. Turabian, A Manual for Writers. This book is available in the Tyndale Bookstore.
- Late papers are penalized 10% per week.

A. Summary of Assignments and Grading:

Critical Book Review	30%
Philosophy of Ministry	20%
Major Project	50%
Total Grade	100 %

B. General Guidelines for the Submission of Written Work

Students should consult the current Academic Calendar for academic policies on Academic Honesty, Gender Inclusive Language in Written Assignments, Late Paper and Extensions, Return of Assignments and Grading System. The Academic Calendar is posted at www.tyndale.ca/registrar/calendar.

Please mail in all assignments to the seminary office c/o David Sherbino.

IV. COURSE OUTLINE

1. Introduction to Small Groups
 - a) A New Paradigm for the Church
 - b) The Place of Small Groups in Our Lives
 - c) The Process of Becoming a Group
2. Small Group Philosophy; Small Group Strategy; The Stages of Group Development
3. Pitfalls in Small Group Ministry
4. Communication Skills: Listening, Feedback, Interpretation, Process Observation, Asking Questions, Self Disclosure, Non Verbal
5. Pastoral Care in Small Groups
6. The Spiritual Disciplines in Small Groups: Bible Study, Prayer, Journaling, Worship, Sacraments, Accountability.
7. The Tasks of Leadership and the Development of Leader, Support and Coaching
8. Evangelism and Small Groups
9. Discipleship
10. Conflict: Is Rocking the Boat Always Bad?

11. Developing Small Groups in Your Church...The Process of Change
12. Pitfalls in the Small Group Ministry

ADDITIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. Life Together. HarperCollins.
2. Bunch, Cindy. Small Group Idea Book. IVP.
3. Cho, Paul Yonggi. Successful Home Cell Groups. Logos.
4. Coleman, Lyman. Training Manual for Small Group Leaders. Serendipity House.
5. Evans, Louis H. Covenant to Care. Victor Books.
6. Galloway, Dale. 20/20 Vision. Scott Publishing Co.
7. Icenogle, Gareth. Biblical Foundations for Small Groups. IVP.
8. Mallison, John. Building Small Groups in the Christian Community. Renewal Publications.
9. McBride, Neil. Small Groups Don't just happen NavPress.
10. Nichols, Ron. Good Things Come in Small Groups. IVP.
11. Nichols, Ron. Small Group Leader's Handbook. IVP.
12. Peace, Richard. Learning How to Care. NavPress.
13. Price, R. and P. Springle. Rapha's Handbook for Group Leaders. Rapha Publishers.
14. Richards, L. 69 Ways to Start a Study Group and Keep it Growing. Zondervan.
15. Watson, D.L. Accountable Discipleship. Discipleship Resources.

BOOKS ON CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

1. Bellah, Robert. Habits of the Heart. Harper & Row.
2. Snyder, Howard. The Community of the King. IVP.

3. Trueblood, Elton. The Company of the Committed. Harper & Row.
4. Wallis, Jim. Call to Conversion. Harper & Row.