



# TYNDALE

• SEMINARY •

## Course Syllabus

**INTERSESSION 2019**  
**BUILDING THE CHURCH THROUGH SMALL GROUPS**  
**PAST 0644 / SPIR 0644**

**JANUARY 7 – 11**  
**9:00AM – 4:00PM**

**INSTRUCTOR: DR. DAVID SHERBINO**

Tel: (416) 226-6620, ext. 6741

E-mail: [dsherbino@tyndale.ca](mailto:dsherbino@tyndale.ca)

Office Hours: TBA

Access course material at <http://classes.tyndale.ca/>  
Course emails will be sent to your @MyTyndale.ca e-mail account only.  
[Learn how to access and forward emails to your personal account.](#)

The mission of Tyndale Seminary is to provide Christ-centred graduate theological education for leaders in the church and society whose lives are marked by intellectual maturity, spiritual vigour and moral integrity, and whose witness will faithfully engage culture with the Gospel.

## I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Explores the basic principles for building and understanding the dynamics and problems of small groups. 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

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. recognize the importance of leaders who build community within the congregation.
2. interpret what lay leaders are to do, so that the pastoral staff can feel confident that everyone is on the same team.
3. identify new methods of developing the lay leadership of a local congregation.

4. discuss and track the care system of a congregation.
5. implement the spiritual disciplines as part of the small group experience

### III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

#### A. REQUIRED READING

Donahue, B., and R. Robinson. *Building a Life Changing Small Groups Ministry*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2012.

George, Carl. *Nine Keys to Effective Small Group Leadership*. Odenton, MD: Kingdom Publishing, 1997.

Webb, Heather. *Small Group Leadership as Spiritual Direction*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2005.

#### B. SUPPLEMENTARY / RECOMMENDED READING AND TOOLS

Tyndale recommends [www.stepbible.org](http://www.stepbible.org) – a free and reputable online resource developed by Tyndale House (Cambridge, England) – for word searches of original-language texts, as well as for topical searches, interlinear texts, dictionaries, etc. Refer to the library for other [online resources for Biblical Studies](#).

#### C. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

All assignments are to be submitted on your course resource page on Moodle.

1. Students are to read the following required texts, and provide a 3-page critique of each book read. Follow the guidelines on writing a critical book review: [https://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/library\\_archives/theological\\_resources/theological\\_guides/writing\\_theological\\_reviews.html](https://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/library_archives/theological_resources/theological_guides/writing_theological_reviews.html)
  - a. Donahue, B., and R. Robinson. *Building a Life Changing Small Groups Ministry*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2012.
  - b. George, Carl. *Nine Keys to Effective Small Group Leadership*. Odenton, MD: Kingdom Publishing, 1997.
  - c. Webb, Heather. *Small Group Leadership as Spiritual Direction*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2005.

**DUE: Feb. 11 2019                      30%**

2. Write a 5-page paper on your philosophy of ministry and how small groups would fit

with your philosophy. Cite at least 5 sources.

**DUE: Feb. 25 2019                      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 on 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.
4. Cite a minimum of 8 books or recent journal articles, apart from the required texts.
5. This document is no more than 20 pages.

**DUE: Mar. 12 2019                      50%**

#### **D. EQUITY OF ACCESS**

Students with permanent or temporary disabilities who need academic accommodations must [contact](#) the [Accessibility Services](#) at the [Centre for Academic Excellence](#) to [register](#) and discuss their specific needs. *New students* must self-identify and register with the Accessibility Office at the beginning of the semester or as early as possible to access appropriate services. *Current students* must renew their plans as early as possible to have active accommodations in place.

#### **E. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING**

Evaluation is based upon the completion of the following assignments:

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

#### **F. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK**

For proper citation style, consult the [Chicago-Style Quick Guide](#) (Tyndale e-resource) or the full edition of the [Chicago Manual of Style Online](#), especially [ch. 14](#). For citing scripture texts, refer to sections [10.44 to 10.48](#) and [14.238 to 14.241](#).

#### **Academic Integrity**

Integrity in academic work is required of all our students. Academic dishonesty is any breach of this integrity, and includes such practices as cheating (the use of unauthorized material on tests and examinations), submitting the same work for different classes without permission of the instructors; using false information (including false references to secondary sources) in an assignment; improper or unacknowledged collaboration with other students, and plagiarism. Tyndale University College & Seminary takes seriously its responsibility to uphold academic integrity, and to penalize academic dishonesty.

Students are encouraged to consult [writing resources](#).

Students should also consult the current [Academic Calendar](#) for academic policies on Academic Honesty, Gender Inclusive Language in Written Assignments, Late Papers and Extensions, Return of Assignments, and Grading System.

### **Research Ethics**

All course-based assignments involving human participants requires ethical review and approval by the [Tyndale Research Ethics Board \(REB\)](#). Check with the Seminary Office (Room B302; [aau@tyndale.ca](mailto:aau@tyndale.ca)) before proceeding.

## **G. COURSE EVALUATION**

Tyndale Seminary values quality in the courses it offers its students. End-of-course evaluations provide valuable student feedback and are one of the ways that Tyndale Seminary works towards maintaining and improving the quality of courses and the student's learning experience. Student involvement in this process is critical to enhance the general quality of teaching and learning.

Before the end of the course, students will receive a MyTyndale email with a link to the online course evaluation. The link can also be found in the left column on the course page. The evaluation period is 2 weeks; after the evaluation period has ended, it cannot be reopened.

Course Evaluation results will not be disclosed to the instructor before final grades in the course have been submitted and processed. Student names will be kept confidential and the instructor will only see the aggregated results of the class.

## **IV. COURSE SCHEDULE, CONTENT AND REQUIRED READINGS**

### **COURSE OUTLINE**

1. Introduction to Small Groups
2. Small Group Philosophy; Small Group Strategy
3. Development of a Group

4. Leadership of a Small Group
5. Support and Coaching
6. Conflict in a Small Group
7. The Bible in Small Groups
8. Prayer in Small Groups
9. Pastoral Care in Small Groups
10. Evangelism
11. Pitfalls in Small Groups
12. Developing Small Groups in Your Church : The Process of Change

## **V. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

(Tyndale Library supports this course with [e-journals and e-books](#). See the [Library FAQ page](#).)

### **GROUP SPIRITUAL DIRECTION**

Dougherty, Rose Mary, SSND. *Group Spiritual Direction: Community for Discernment*. New York: Paulist Press, 1995.

Fryling, Alice. *Seeking God Together: An Introduction to Group Spiritual Direction*. Downers Grove, IL: IV Press, 2009.

Maxon, Monica and Rose Mary Dougherty, eds. *The Lived Experience of Group Spiritual Direction*. New York: Paulist Press, 2003.

Prechtel, Daniel. *Where Two or Three Are Gathered: Spiritual Direction for Small Groups*. New York: Morehouse Publishing, 2012.

Schrock, Daniel and Marlene Kropf, eds. *An Open Place: The Ministry of Group Spiritual Direction*. New York: Morehouse Publishing, 2012.

Vennard, Jane E. *A Praying Congregation: The Art of Teaching Spiritual Practice*. Herndon, VA: Alban Institute, 2005.

### **BOOKS ON CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY**

Bellah, Robert. *Habits of the Heart*. New York, NY: Harper & Row, 1985.

Snyder, Howard. *The Community of the King*. Downers Grove IL: IVP, 2004.

Trueblood, Elton. *The Company of the Committed*. New York, NY: Harper & Row, 1961.

Wallis, Jim. *Call to Conversion*. New York, NY: Harper & Row, 1981.

#### **ADDITIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Arnold, Jeffrey. *The Big Book on Small Groups*. Downers Grove IL: InterVarsity Press, 2010.

Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *Life Together: The Classic Exploration of Christian Community*. New York, NY: HarperCollins, 1978.

Boren, M. Scott. *Leading Small Groups in the Way of Jesus*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books, 2015.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Missional Small Groups : Becoming a Community That Makes a Difference in the World*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2010.

Bunch, Cindy. *Small Group Idea Book*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2003.

Cho, Paul Yonggi. *Successful Home Cell Groups*. Alachua, FL: Bridge-Logos, 1987.

Coleman, Lyman. *Training Manual for Small Group Leaders*. Serendipity House, 1987.

Comer, Gary. *Launch Point: Community Group Mission Guide: Moving Small Groups into Mission*. Missional Engagement Series, Volume 4. Eugene, OR: Resource Publications, 2014.

Corbett, Steve. *When Helping Hurts: The Small Group Experience*. Chicago: Moody, 2014.

Donahue, Bill, and Greg Bowman. *Coaching Life-Changing Small Group Leaders: A Comprehensive Guide for Developing Leaders of Groups and Teams*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2012.

Evans, Louis H. *Covenant to Care*. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books., 1982.

Frazer, Randy. *The Connecting Church 2.0: Beyond Small Groups to Authentic Community*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2013.

Galloway, Dale. *20/20 Vision: How to Create a Successful Church*. Scott Publishing Co., 1990.

- Gladden, Steve. *Small Groups with Purpose: How to Create Healthy Communities*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2011.
- Hook, Jan Paul, Joshua N. Hook, and Don F. Davis. *Helping Groups Heal: Leading Groups in the Process of Transformation*. West Conshohocken, PA: Templeton Press, 2017.
- Icenogle, Gareth. *Biblical Foundations for Small Groups: An Intergenerational Approach*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2006.
- Kirk, J. Alex. *Small Group Leaders' Handbook: Developing Transformational Communities*. New ed. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Connect, 2009.
- Mallison, John. *Building Small Groups in the Christian Community*. West Ryde, NSW: Renewal Publications, 1979.
- Marton, Edward R., and Duane Anders. *Mentoring by Design: Mentoring and Discipling Through Missional Small Groups*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2016.
- McBride, Neil. *Small Groups Don't Just Happen: Nurturing Relationships in your Small Group*. Carol Stream, IL: NavPress, 2005.
- McRae, Fred W, and Gundolf Lange. *Christ for Post-Christians: A Radical Shift for the Small Group Bible Study*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2015.
- Miller, Tara, and Jenn Peppers. *Finding the Flow: A Guide for Leading Small Groups and Gatherings*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Connect, 2008.
- Myers, Joseph R. *The Search to Belong: Rethinking Intimacy, Community, and Small Groups*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011.
- Nichols, Ron. *Good Things Come in Small Groups: The Dynamics of Good Group Life*. Downers Grove IL: IVP, 1985.
- Nichols, Ron. *Small Group Leader's Handbook*. Downers Grove IL: IVP, 1982.
- Peace, Richard. *Learning How to Care*. Carol Stream IL: NavPress, 2007.
- Poole, Garry D. *Seeker Small Groups: Engaging Spiritual Seekers in Life-Changing Discussions*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2009.
- Price, R. and P. Springle. *Rapha's Handbook for Group Leaders*. Rapha Publishers 1992.
- Richards, L. *69 Ways to Start a Study Group and Keep it Growing*. Grand Rapids MI: Zondervan. 1980.

Searcy, Nelson, and Thomas Kerrick. *Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2008.

Stewart, Teena. *Successful Small Groups: From Concept to Practice*. Kansas City, MO: Beacon Hill, 2013.

Tran, Catherine C. *Spiritual Discovery: A Method for Discernment in Small Groups and Congregations*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2015.

Walton, Roger L. *Disciples Together: Discipleship Formation and the Role of Small Groups*. London: SCM Press, 2014.

Watson, D.L. *Accountable Discipleship: Handbook for Covenant Discipleship Groups in the congregation*. Nashville, TN: Discipleship Resources, 1994.



