

Calvary Chapel Orlando January 9th, 2024

Dearly Beloved of Jesus!

From very early in the ministry, it has been on my heart to host a School of Ministry for individuals who have a desire to become better equipped to serve their brothers and sisters in Christ. Ephesians 4:15-16 describes the church as an entity with Christ as its Head and every believer doing their part so that the whole body is growing in a healthy way. The goal of the School of Ministry is to provide tools and training that will enable you to discover your God-given role and begin the process of stepping into it.

While anyone is welcome to attend the School of Ministry, the classes are geared toward believers who are grounded in the essential truths of Christianity as found in Ephesians 4:4-6. The goal of this 5-month program is to “leave the elementary discussion of the doctrine of Christ” and to “go on unto maturity” rather than “lay again the foundation” as Hebrews 6:1 states.

If you are still unsure about the Triune nature of God or salvation by grace through faith alone or The Bible’s inerrancy, then you might want to consider taking our Foundations Class before attending the School of Ministry. But if you affirm those essential truths and are looking for training to step into God’s call for your life, the School of Ministry is a great next step.

Because this is not a Pastoral Training Program, this will be a co-ed program, similar to how Jesus invested into men and women during His earthly ministry. Every session over the 5-month program will cover topics that are equally helpful to both men and women who have a heart to be equipped to serve the Lord.

First and foremost, please pray if Jesus wants you to be involved in this program.

Second, if you are married, please ask your spouse to be praying that he or she might know whether Jesus wants you to be involved in this. I say this because of the time commitment involved.

Third, make sure you are willing to commit to finishing the class. The Lord desires faithfulness to the things He has called us to do. The Bible is filled with exhortations to finish the work God has given to us to do. And if the Lord has called you to this program, He will give you the grace to do the work and put in the time. Because each day of teaching is essential, please plan to stay in town during class times so you can attend all of them.

Fourth, please do not commit to the program if it will mean that you will be unable to attend the Bible Studies/Services that you are currently attending. This is not a substitute for church services, prayer meetings, or Bible studies. The Lord still desires to speak to you and use you in those other services. This program is in addition to the ministries you currently attend. You do not have to attend all services to come to this program, however, please commit to being faithful to attend the services you are already attending.

As a disclaimer, I want to be clear that this program will not qualify you to be a leader or make you a leader in the church.

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If you are a man, completing this program doesn't qualify you to be an Elder, Deacon, Board Member, Bible Study Teacher, or any other specific leadership position or ministry open to men.

If you are a woman this program doesn't qualify you to be a Deaconess, Bible Study Teacher, be on the Women's ministry leadership team, or any other specific leadership position or ministry open to women.

Lastly, I have attached a program description and the time commitment involved below. You will also find a program schedule covering each month's topics. If you wish to attend the next semester for the School of Ministry, please sign up so we can add you to our email list.

Sincerely,

Pastor Will
Calvary Chapel Orlando

Program Description

I. Purpose

The purpose for any Bible study, class, or program at Calvary Chapel Orlando is for each Christian to know Jesus better when they finish than they did when they started out. The Bible is God's Word. It is His revelation of Himself, so we get to know Him better by getting to know His Word, by hiding it in our hearts, and by making it a part of our lives. Our goal is to be closer to Jesus than we are now by the end of the program.

II. Requirements

A. Attendance

The reason we will get together for monthly teaching sessions is because we are gathering to know God better, to draw near to Jesus, and to wait on Him. Therefore, we assume that each participant is serious about drawing near to Christ. Emergencies come up, however, if the Lord is calling you to this program, He desires to magnify His blessings to you as He speaks to you. And the only way that can happen is if you are present. We will meet on the fourth Saturday of each month for 5 months from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall at the church. This will begin on *March 23rd* and conclude on *July 27th*

B. Reading

You will be required to read two books over the course of the program. *Absolute Surrender* by Andrew Murray and *The Power of Prayer* by R.A. Torrey. You will get a reading schedule for each book at the first class.

C. Group Discussion

When the class begins you will be paired with a group of other attendees with whom you will be required to have regular discussion on the Band App. We will walk you through this process on your first day of classes. The discussions will be based on practical application questions from the two books you will read. The goal of these group discussions is to take what we are learning in those books and turn it into action. It is not the hearers of the Word who are blessed, but the doers of the Word. James 1:22.

D. Servanthood

Jesus said, *“If I then, your Lord, and Master, have washed your feet; you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.”*
(John 13:14-15)

Practical Ministry is a part of being a disciple. Therefore, beginning in Month Three, you will be given the opportunity to choose from a few different ministry’s or special projects to sign up for. This program is not intended to be solely for academic purposes. It’s meant to give you practical experience in serving God’s people.

III. Goal

Our goal in every Bible study at CCO is to become more like Jesus, to be closer to Him, to know Him more intimately than before, to live in the Holiest of All, and to apply God's holy Word to our lives that we might be pleasing in His sight. I am GLAD you are interested in participating in the program! Jesus loves you abundantly and wants to bless you fully. Don't get discouraged. Don't quit. Hang in there. Jesus loves you and so do I. If you apply yourself, you'll be amazed at how much you'll grow in a short time and at how much God will bless you.

Monthly Schedule and Course Objectives

1. March 23rd

The Call of God – To explore what it means to be called by God and how to recognize God’s call on your life.

Servanthood 1 – To establish the Christ-like mindset of a mature believer.

Servanthood 2 – To examine examples of leaders in the Bible who exhibited Christ’s servant-mindset and what those leaders taught about the topic.

2. April 27th

Ministry and Marriage – How prioritizing marriage as one’s first ministry empowers a person to use their spiritual gifts in a healthy way.

Ministry and Parenting – How prioritizing parenting empowers a person to use their spiritual gifts in a healthy way.

How to Disciple Others – To equip with a practical set of principles to help another person go deeper with Jesus.

3. May 25th

Spiritual Leadership 1 – To establish the Biblical principles on how to conduct oneself as a leader in God’s house

Spiritual Leadership 2 - To establish further Biblical principles on how to conduct oneself as a leader in God’s house

Walking in the Spirit in Ministry – To emphasize the necessity of the baptism, filling, and gifting of the Holy Spirit to accomplish God’s call on your life.

4. June 22nd

Time Management and Personal Growth – To establish the need to lay down personal pursuits to make room for necessary pursuits and service/ministry.

Biblical Counseling Principles – To establish the proper mindset, attitude, demeanor, and delivery when advising others.

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Introduction to Apologetics – To establish the foundational steps to becoming someone who can reason with others from the scriptures.

5. July 27th

How to Study Your Bible 1 – To equip with the Inductive Bible Study Method.

How to Study Your Bible 2 – To explain the proper use of study resources.

Basic Hermeneutics – To explain the general, grammatical, historical, and theological principles of interpretation.