

Advanced Leadership Training 2015–2016



Course description: A powerful 10-month training course designed to help trainees make disciples and lead others to do the same (Matt. 28:18-20; 2 Tim. 2:2). The course tests and purifies the theological beliefs of our church's developing leaders and equips them with critical leadership skills necessary to fish for men and build up the church (Matt. 4:19/Mark 1:17; Eph. 4:11-16).

Cost: \$200

Prerequisites:

- Church membership
- Entrance exam
- Application, with references

Lead Trainers:

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Course objectives: By the end of the course, students will be able to

1. articulate and support biblically the main tenets and themes of the Christian faith
2. distill and pursue actionable goals from Bible passages in various genres
3. perform and train others to perform critical disciple-making functions such as sharing their faith, praying, and leading individuals and groups toward Christlikeness
4. answer a host of general and specific objections to biblical truth
5. summarize and explain the essentials of Grace Brethren history and practice
6. relate with familiarity to various leaders of Grace Polaris Church

Course format: There are three primary elements to the Advanced Leadership Training course format:

- *Individual monthly reading and theological topics.* Most months trainees will complete readings covering systematic theology and biblical theology. One month the focus will be on Grace Brethren history and ordinances. The reading material, as well as other resources that trainers and trainees marshal, will assist trainees in writing answers to questions assigned each month related to four theological topics.
- *Mentoring meetings.* Trainees will arrange to meet with their assigned mentors at least three times per month. These mentoring meetings will follow the three-thirds disciple-making process¹ and focus on trainees' 1) understanding of and obedience to the theological truths covered in the reading, and 2) faithfulness in Christian witness.
- *Monthly class meetings.* At the end of each month of study, trainees, mentors, and other church leaders will gather on a Saturday for in-depth focus on theological truths and ministry skills. Monthly meetings will also follow the three-thirds disciple-making process.² Significant components of the Saturday time include a 15-minute question-and-answer section for each trainee on the month's theological topics, as well as training in and practice of specific ministry skills, as outlined on the schedule below.

New group requirement: In order to multiply devoted followers of Jesus and provide a context for applying the principles of the course, each trainee will be required to begin a new group by April 2, 2016. The group may consist of believers, non-believers, or some combination of the two, and may conduct itself according to any format (e.g., sermon-based, discovery Bible study, training group) so long as it centers itself on multiplying itself through study of and obedience to Scripture.

Required resources (included with registration fee):

- The Bible
- Advanced Leadership Training course packet
- Carson, D. A. *The God Who Is There: Finding Your Place in God's Story*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: BakerBooks, 2010.
- DeArmey, Dick. *Call for the Elders*. Rev. ed. Columbus, Ohio: Grace Brethren Church, 1991.
- DeArmey, Dick. *Baptize? Rebaptize?* 2nd ed. Columbus, Ohio: Grace Brethren Church, 1987.
- Erickson, Millard. *Christian Theology*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2013.
- Hodge, Timothy Mark. *Could It Be Three? Investigating Baptism by Trine Immersion*. Winona Lake, Ind.: CE National, 1999.
- Ryrie, Charles. *Basic Theology: A Popular Systematic Guide to Understanding Biblical Truth*. Chicago: Moody, 1999.
- Scoles, Todd. *Restoring the Household: The Quest of the Grace Brethren Church*. Winona Lake, Ind.: BMH, 2008.

¹ For more on the three-thirds disciple-making process, see the article entitled "Three-Thirds Disciple-making" in this packet. For an in-depth breakdown of the structure of mentoring meetings, see "Mentoring Meeting Format."

² For more information on the structure of monthly Saturday meetings, see "Saturday Meeting Format."

Additional resources:

- Audio and video files accompanying Carson's *The God Who Is There* are available online at <http://thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/tgc/2010/07/29/audio-and-video-for-d-a-carsons-the-god-who-is-there/>.

Class schedule/assignments

Date	Meeting Discussion	Finish This Work Before Meeting
August 12, 2015	Introduction to Advanced Leadership Training	
September 12, 2015	Systematic theology: Bibliology Biblical theology: Creation Ministry skill: Being a witness, pt. 1	<i>Ryrie</i> , 9–16; <i>Erickson</i> , 6–10; <i>Carson</i> , preface, 1
October 10, 2015	Systematic theology: Theology proper Biblical theology: Fall Ministry skill: Being a witness, pt. 2	<i>Ryrie</i> , 4–8; <i>Erickson</i> , 11–15, 19; <i>Carson</i> , 2
November 14, 2015	Systematic theology: Christology Biblical theology: Abrahamic covenant Ministry skill: Hearing and obeying God's Word, pt. 1	<i>Ryrie</i> , 40–47; <i>Erickson</i> , 30–38; <i>Carson</i> , 3
December 12, 2015	Systematic theology: Brethren history and ordinances Biblical theology: Mosaic covenant/law Ministry skill: Hearing and obeying God's Word, pt. 2	<i>Call for the Elders; Could it Be Three?; Restoring the Household; Ordinances; Carson</i> , 4
January 9, 2016	Systematic theology: Pneumatology Biblical theology: The Kingdom Ministry skill: Praying to the Father, pt. 1	<i>Ryrie</i> , 59–68; <i>Erickson</i> , 39–41; <i>Carson</i> , 5
February 6, 2016	Systematic theology: Angelology & anthropology (part 1)	<i>Ryrie</i> , 17–28, 29–39; <i>Erickson</i> , 19–29; <i>Carson</i> , 6

	<p>Biblical theology: Intertestamental period</p> <p>Ministry skill: Praying to the Father, pt. 2</p>	
March 5, 2016	<p>Systematic theology: Anthropology (part 2) & soteriology (pt. 1)</p> <p>Biblical theology: The birth and life of Jesus</p> <p>Ministry skill: Leading people through the Bible, pt. 1</p>	<p><i>Ryrie, 48–56; Erickson, 25–29; Carson, 7–8</i></p> <p><i>New group members identified</i></p>
April 2, 2016	<p>Systematic theology: Soteriology (pt. 2)</p> <p>Biblical theology: The death and resurrection of Jesus</p> <p>Ministry skill: Leading people through the Bible, pt. 2</p>	<p><i>Ryrie, 57–58; Erickson, 42–48; Carson, 9–11</i></p> <p><i>New group's first meeting takes place by this point</i></p>
April 30, 2016	<p>Systematic theology: Ecclesiology</p> <p>Biblical theology: Church age</p> <p>Ministry skill: Giving and serving, pt. 1</p>	<p><i>Ryrie, 69–76; Erickson, 49–53; Carson, 12</i></p>
June 4, 2016	<p>Systematic & biblical theology: The final restoration</p> <p>Ministry skill: Giving and serving, pt. 2</p>	<p><i>Ryrie, 77–92; Erickson, 54–58; Carson, 13–14</i></p>

Saturday Meeting Format

Advanced Leadership Training



Looking Back	Looking Up	Looking Forward
<p>1. Pastoral care <i>How are the trainees doing? What praises or requests can we lift before the Lord? (Group prays according to these praises and requests.)</i></p> <p>2. Worship <i>Trainer offers a brief word or song of praise to the Lord.</i></p> <p>3. Loving accountability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>How did the trainees do on this month's obedience goals?</i> <i>What have the trainees done this month to be verbal witnesses?</i> <i>Trainees answer questions about their assigned theological topics (15 minutes per trainee).</i> <p>4. Vision casting <i>Trainer offers a scriptural word of inspiration related to the trainees' disciple-making call and potential.</i></p>	<p>5. New lesson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Odd months: Trainers instruct trainees in that month's ministry skill (see syllabus).</i> <i>Even months: Trainees train one another in small groups in that month's ministry skill.</i> 	<p>6. Practice <i>Trainees practice the ministry skill</i></p> <p>7. Set goals and pray <i>Trainees determine actionable obedience goals related to this week's ministry skill. Trainees and trainers together pray for the Spirit's help in accomplishing these goals and in sharing God's truth with others.</i></p>

Mentoring Meeting Format

Advanced Leadership Training



Looking Back	Looking Up	Looking Forward
<p>6. Pastoral care <i>How are the trainees doing? What were the highlights of their weeks? What has them stressed? (Offer any praises and requests that arise to the Lord.)</i></p> <p>7. Worship <i>Offer a brief word or song of praise to the Lord.</i></p> <p>8. Loving accountability³</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What reading did the trainees complete?</i> • <i>Did the trainees accomplish last week's "Looking Forward" obedience goals?</i> • <i>Did the trainees engage in verbal witness since the last meeting?</i> <p>9. Vision casting <i>Mentor offers a scriptural word of inspiration related to the trainees' disciple-making call and potential.</i></p>	<p>10. New lesson <i>What material from the theological reading struck the trainees as most important or impactful? What questions do they have about the topics covered? In what ways can they obey the biblical principles under discussion or the implications of those biblical principles?</i></p>	<p>8. Practice <i>Take time to practice</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) <i>a ministry skill that arises from the "Looking Up" discussion, or</i> 2) <i>a ministry skill covered in one of the previous Saturday meetings, or</i> 3) <i>distilling an obedience goal from a passage that came up in the "Looking Up" section.</i> <p>9. Set goals and pray <i>Trainees determine actionable obedience goals related to this week's discussion. Trainees and mentor together pray for the Spirit's help in accomplishing these goals and in sharing God's truth with others.</i></p>

³ Numbered items in bold are most critical to cover during the meeting.

Three-Thirds Disciple-making



Those who spend a significant amount of time investing in others eventually run into a practical question: “What should I cover when I meet with those I’m training?” Without some kind of plan, meeting times with trainees can easily dissolve into directionless conversation or teaching that never works itself out in real life.

The three-thirds disciple-making process* is a simple model for conducting training sessions that many trainers around the world are using with noteworthy results. In essence the three-thirds process divides a training session into three equal parts called “Looking Back,” “Looking Up,” and “Looking Forward.” Together the three thirds establish a framework not only for biblical learning, but also for obedience and accountability for that learning.

Looking Back, the first third, primarily reviews what has happened in between the current meeting and the prior one. Trainer and trainees discuss how the trainees’ weeks went and may engage in a brief time of worship. Next they turn their attention to how the trainees did in biblical obedience and witness, with particular focus on whatever goals they set last week. This is a time of loving accountability, a time when the trainer comes alongside the trainees to help them see their triumphs and where they could have done better. Finally, the trainer casts vision to the group to make sure they all keep their eyes on the mission Christ has given them.

In *Looking Up*, the second third, the trainer or one of the trainees leads the group in investigating a passage of Scripture or a specific discipleship principle. This is the portion of a three-thirds disciple-making meeting that most resembles the Bible studies evangelicals are used to experiencing. The *Looking Up* third showcases the versatility of the three-thirds disciple-making model, as the group can study any passage of the Bible, or any series of passages and principles over time, which they believe the Spirit is leading them to study and obey. The leader of the group may be more or less directive in selecting passages and principles depending on the needs of the group.

Looking Forward, the third third of the meeting, contains two primary elements: 1) practicing any skills necessary at that point of the group’s training (which usually corresponds to the material covered in the *Looking Up* third); and 2) setting goals to be accomplished before the next meeting. This is the portion of the meeting in which all involved work hard to distill any noteworthy information, commands, or examples from Scripture into concrete, actionable items. The expectation is that in the next meeting’s *Looking Back* third, the group will be able to assess whether or not they obeyed the passage or principle they covered.

*This model of disciple-making was developed by Ying Kai, a missionary in Asia, and is described in detail in Ying Kai and Steve Smith, *T4T: A Discipleship ReRevolution* (Monument, Colo.: WIGTake Resources, 2011), 125-141.