

Immanuel Church Adult Education Program

The **Discipleship Ministry Team** develops, oversees, and supports teachers and leaders as they disciple and equip the body of Christ, by providing a structure for:

- **Adult Education** that teaches all aspects of the orthodox Christian faith, using a systematic approach that promotes life application; and
- Christ-centered **Men's and Women's Ministries** and **Small Groups** that are welcoming and encouraging; characterized by prayer, Biblical study, accountability, service and evangelism.

In line with our mission statement, the Discipleship Ministry Team presents the following system as the official **Immanuel Church Adult Education Program**.

A. Class Schedule

Classes are typically one to three trimesters in length, with twelve 1 hour classes per trimester. The overall schedule year runs from the Sunday after Labor Day to the Sunday before Father's Day, with no classes on the two Sundays bracketing Christmas, or Easter Sunday.

- **Fall trimester:** runs from 2nd Sunday in September to 1st Sunday in December.
- **Winter trimester:** runs from 2nd Sunday in December to 2nd Sunday in March.
- **Spring trimester:** runs from 3rd Sunday in March through 2nd Sunday in June.

B. Program Philosophy

Our goal is to provide a rich array of classes that will establish you in a sound understanding of the doctrines of the faith, as well as equip you to live a life of sound practice in the faith once for all delivered to the saints. In a given year, we plan to offer four categories of adult education classes for an average of five or more classes per year, including: (1) Faith Essentials, (2) Bible In-Depth, (3) Doctrinal Study, and (4) Applied Theology.

Immanuel Church Adult Education Program
(5) Ad Hoc Classes
(4) Applied Theology
(3) Doctrinal Study
(2) Bible In-Depth
(1) Faith Essentials

While we cannot present every class every year, the classes in each track are arranged to present materials in an orderly fashion over the course of several years. To facilitate your ability to take advantage of this order, we will be presenting classes from the Doctrinal Study and Applied Theology tracks repeatedly across the three trimesters of any given year. Our hope is that this will allow you to enjoy all of our classes, as well as allowing our teachers an opportunity to experience the material as students as well. We encourage you to consider the order in which the classes are presented here in making your own decisions as to which class you might attend in a given trimester.

Faith Essentials classes are intended primarily for new or young believers. They are designed to provide a solid foundation in the fundamentals of Christian faith, and the grand scope of Scripture. Older believers would certainly benefit from being reminded of these foundational truths as well, but will be better served by encountering them in the other tracks of this program. To help preserve the intent of these classes, we plan to present the Faith Essentials materials as an evening class series specifically for these newer believers. This will allow them to explore these basic truths in a more comfortable setting, and enjoy a greater freedom to ask such questions as may arise.

Bible In-Depth classes present an opportunity to engage the various books of Scripture more rigorously. Classes in this group are arranged to ensure that the varied genres contained in the Bible are each encountered regularly over the course of the program. They are further arranged to maintain an evenly proportioned exposure to Old Testament and New Testament texts.

Doctrinal Study classes are designed to explore major theological topics in depth. These include explorations of fundamental doctrines of first importance, as well as discussions of secondary doctrines upon which reasonable Christians may disagree. Matters of historical perspective for the church are also covered in this group of classes, exploring the doctrines established (and heresies refuted) in the many centuries of church history.

Applied Theology classes offer subjects that will aid the believer in putting faith into practice in day-to-day life, whether in direct, active ministry or in the more prosaic aspects of day to day living.

C. Program Schedules

The following chart lays out the progression of classes for each track.

Faith Essentials Class Schedule			
Year	Fall Trimester	Winter Trimester	Spring Trimester
1	Core Christianity Pt 1	Core Christianity Pt 2	Core Christianity Pt 3
2	Evangelical Essentials	Know Why You Believe	How to Read the Bible

Bible In-Depth Class Schedule			
Year	Fall Trimester	Winter Trimester	Spring Trimester
1	Genesis Pt 1	Genesis Pt 2	1 & 2 Timothy
2	Joshua	John Pt 1	John Pt 2
3	Ezekiel Pt 1	Ezekiel Pt 2	Galatians
4	James, 1 & 2 Peter	Exodus Pt 1	Exodus Pt 2
5	Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song.	Ephesian	Obadiah thru Haggai
6	Acts Pt 1	Acts Pt 2	Judges
7	Philippians & Colossians	Isaiah Pt 1	Isaiah Pt 2
8	Matthew Pt 1	Matthew Pt 2	Hosea, Joel, Amos
9	Romans Pt 1	Romans Pt 2	1 & 2 Samuel
10	Psalms	Titus, Philemon, Jude	Leviticus
11	1 & 2 Kings	Mark Pt 1	Mark Pt 2
12	Jeremiah Pt 1	Jeremiah Pt 2	1,2 & 3 John

13	Zechariah & Malachi	1 Corinthians Pt 1	1 Corinthians Pt 2
14	Deuteronomy	Hebrews	1 & 2 Chronicles
15	Luke Pt 1	Luke Pt 2	Job
16	2 Corinthians	Lamentations & Daniel	Ruth, Ezra, Nehemiah & Esther
17	Numbers	Revelation Pt 1	Revelation Pt 2
18	1 & 2 Thessalonians		

Bible In-Depth Key	
OT	NT
Pentateuch	Gospel
History	History
Wisdom	Major Epistle
Major Prophet	Other Pauline Epistle
Minor Prophet	Other non-Pauline Epistle
	Apocalypse

Doctrinal Studies Class Schedule			
Year	Subject	Alternate 1	Alternate 2
1	Doctrine of God		
2	Christology		
3	The Holy Spirit		
4	The Trinity		
5	The Local Church		
6	The Five Solas		
7	Systematic Theology I	Comparative Catechisms I	Comparative Confessions I
8	Systematic Theology II	Comparative Catechisms II	Comparative Confessions II
9	Systematic Theology III	Comparative Catechisms III	Other Confessions
10	Church History (1 st -5 th C)		
11	Church History (6 th -10 th C)		
12	Church History (11th-15th C)		
13	Church History (16th-20th C)		
14	TULIP vs. ~TULIP	Point / Counterpoint	

Applied Theology Class Schedule			
Year	Subject	Alternate 1	Alternate 2
1	Spiritual Disciplines		
2	Conflict & Relationships		
3	Discipleship Explored		
4	Spiritual Gifts & Service		
5	Marriage		

6	Eldership		
7	Gospel-Centered Ministry		
8	Parenting		
9	Apologetics Pt 1		
10	Apologetics Pt 2		
11	Christianity in the Workplace		
12	Finance & Stewardship		
13	Evangelical Ethics		
14	Evangelism	Missions	Church Planting
15	Preaching Pt 1		
16	Preaching Pt 2		

D. Program Details

1. Faith Essentials

The Faith Essentials track is designed specifically for new believers. These classes will be offered on Tuesday evenings as a joint effort of Discipleship and Evangelism Ministry Teams, together with pastoral staff. This is done to allow new believers a setting in which to gain understanding and ask questions in a more comfortable setting. The goal is to provide a relatively short introduction to the beliefs and theology of the Christian faith, such that participants are equipped to benefit more fully from materials presented in the remaining tracks.

a. Core Christianity

This year-long text is built around a web-based curriculum (<https://corechristianity.com>) which provides for a flexible approach. These classes introduce and explain the fundamentals of faith, provide Q&A which can be done interactively in class, or online, and provides the instructors with insights that will allow them to tune instruction to the current understanding of the students.

b. Evangelical Essentials

This class uses the book, "Know What You Believe" by Paul Little, "Christian Beliefs: Twenty Basics Every Christian Should Know" by Wayne Grudem, or similar materials to present and discuss the common faith of the Evangelical Christian churches. These include topics such as Gospel, Canon, Trinity, Sin, Jesus Christ, Penal Substitution, Justification, Grace, Holy Spirit, Sanctification, Unity of Believers, and Church.

c. Know Why You Believe

This class follows the text of the book, "Know Why You Believe" by Paul Little.

d. How to Read the Bible

This class presents materials from "Living by the Book" by Howard and William Hendricks, "How to Read the Bible for All it's Worth" by Gordon D. Fee and Douglas Stuart, or other similar texts to present the student with sound principles for properly studying the Bible, as well as opportunity to exercise these principles.

2. Bible In-Depth

The Bible In-Depth classes are presented as opportunities for the student to encounter each book of the Bible in significant detail. We seek to satisfy multiple objectives, the foremost being to allow sufficient time to fully engage with each text. Second, we have arranged the classes to maintain an even distribution of Old and New Testament texts. In general, three trimesters are spent in each Testament over the course of every two year

period. Some texts simply require multiple trimesters to properly address. The third goal is to keep students in contact with the varied genres of Scripture. In the table of classes, these genres are indicated by color code according to the following key.

The cycle of classes are listed below.

a. Supported Study Guides / Texts

The Discipleship Ministry Team hopes to develop a list of recommended materials for use in teaching the Bible In-Depth classes. In the short term, we present a list of authors whose works are generally considered trustworthy. It is doubtful that any of these provide coverage of every book of the Bible, but where they have materials available, the DMT would be pre-inclined to approve their use

- Timothy Keller
- Warren Wiersbe
- R.C. Sproul Sr.
- Jerry Bridges
- Materials from the Navigators

3. Doctrinal Studies

The following chart lays out the progression of classes contained in the Doctrinal Studies group.

a. Doctrine of God

This class begins a series considering the three Persons of the Trinity in turn, with a concluding class on the Trinitarian Godhead specifically. The first class considers the Person of the Father. No specific text to offer on this.

b. Christology

“The Person of Christ” by Donald Macleod, materials from R.C. Sproul, and a variety of other sources are combined to present an overview of the second Person of the Trinity. Powerpoint deck available.

c. The Holy Spirit

This class considers the Person of the Holy Spirit. It is not specifically concerned with addressing some of the present-day controversies that surround the gifts of the Spirit, but rather with His Person and a robust theological understanding of His office. No specific text to offer on this.

d. The Trinity

This class rounds out discussion of the Trinitarian Godhead with a consideration of the Trinity. “Life in the Trinity” by Donald Fairbairn is one suggested text.

e. The Local Church

“9 Marks of a Healthy Church” by Mark Dever

f. The Five Solas

Grace, Faith, Christ, Scripture, Glory – but no specific text to offer at this point..

g. Systematic Theology

NOTE: This class and the two which follow hereafter are presented as three alternatives for what may be presented at this stage in the Doctrinal Studies Schedule. All three are of a somewhat similar nature, and decision shall be made the year prior to beginning as to which of the three best suits the needs of Immanuel Church at that time.

This is a three-trimester class so as to allow a reasonable exploration of systematic theology, the attempt to arrange the truths of Scripture into a consistent, orderly, coherent account. Pilgrim Theology by Michael Horton, Wayne Grudem, Millard Erickson, etc. Calvin's Institutes are possible texts.

h. Comparative Catechisms

This class seeks to present a comparative study of the Baptist Catechism, the Westminster Shorter Catechism, and the Heidelberg Confession. This provides an opportunity to observe the many similarities between these efforts at organizing the tenets of Biblical Theology, as well as considering the points of divergence.

i. Comparative Confessions

For the first two trimesters, this class will undertake to present the three major early confessions of the Protestant Church: The Westminster Confession, the Savoy Declarations, and the 1689 London Baptist Confession. These three works, produced in the same period, represent the roots of the Presbyterian, Congregational, and Baptist denominations respectively. Further, as each built upon the one before, there are surprisingly few differences between them. The class, therefore, serves both to notice and understand these church distinctives, and to acknowledge the great unity of faith and practice between these three denominations.

The third trimester will look at the catechisms of other branches of Christian faith, such as Lutheran, Methodist, and Episcopalian statements. The goal is that we may understand our fellow Christians, both as to our shared essentials and our varied distinctives.

j. Church History I (1st-5th C)

k. Church History II (6th-10th C)

l. Church History III (11th-15th C)

m. Church History IV (16th-20th C)

The goal of these four classes is to present the arc of church development century by century. This will include coverage of the doctrinal developments of each period, as well as clear exposition of the heresies encountered (as well as their present-day incarnations). Each century seems to have its particular hero, and often its particular villain. These also ought to be elaborated, particularly the former.

n. TULIP vs. ~TULIP

Once again, there are alternatives for what may be presented at this time, based on the current state of the church.

The goal of this class is to present the 'best case' arguments for both the Calvinist and Arminian viewpoints

o. Point / Counterpoint

This class provides opportunity to explore competing views on various secondary issues. It does not seek to dictate a 'right view' on these topics, but to offer the best arguments of each case. Topics include Eschatological perspective, the charismata, baptism, free-will and predestination. Powerpoint deck is available.

4. Applied Theology

The following chart lays out the progression of classes contained in the Applied Theology group. Within the spectrum of Applied Theology, we see three sub-tracks develop, if you will: Personal development, Relational development, and Ministry development. The schedule for this track seeks to interleave materials from each area, so that we grow in all three respects as we proceed.

a. Spiritual Disciplines

“A Hunger for God” by John Piper was one recommendation in this area, although primarily on prayer & fasting.

b. Conflict & Relationships

No specific text to offer.

c. Discipleship Explored

This follow-on to Christianity Explored is designed to help the newer believer establish a lifestyle of practicing those spiritual disciplines God prescribes for the growth of His children.

d. Spiritual Gifts & Service

No specific text to offer yet.

e. Marriage

“The Meaning of Marriage” by Timothy Keller

f. Eldership

This class discusses the Scriptural requisites for serving as Elder or Deacon in the church. While these characteristics are requirements of office, they are also desirable in any believer. The class will also consider how we as a church can help raise up the elders in our midst.

g. Gospel-Centered Ministry

“Center Church” by Timothy Keller

h. Parenting

No specific text to offer yet.

i. Apologetics

Two trimester class. “Defending your Faith” by R.C. Sproul. Powerpoint deck presented by Anthony Courtemanche is available.

“Finding Truth” by Nancy Pearcey presents tools for both assessing the claims of other worldviews, and presenting the Christian perspective.

j. Christianity in the Workplace

“Frontline Evangelism” has been presented once in this regard. “Every Good Endeavor” by Timothy Keller is also noted.

k. Finance & Stewardship

“Money, Possession & Eternity” by Alcorn was original recommendation. We’ve also looked at RC Sproul Jr. and Dave Ramsey.

I. Evangelical Ethics

By John Jefferson Davis

m. Evangelism

Once again, this class and the next two are viewed as alternatives, with one or the other presented at this time, depending on the needs of the church at that time.

This class introduces both the reason for and tools for personal evangelism. No specific text to offer at this time.

n. Missions

No specific text to offer.

o. Church Planting

No specific text to offer.

p. Preaching

This will be a two-trimester class. No specific text to offer.

5. Ad Hoc Classes

The Ad Hoc Class group is included as a means to provide for classes which would otherwise fall outside the plan and scope of this program. This includes classes that may address a subset of the congregation, such as a study focused on men's or women's specific concerns. It allows for classes designed to dovetail with other ministry activities of the church, like presentations specific to missions, evangelism, and the like, or follow-ons to materials presented in other settings at Immanuel. Another example of materials that would be included in this category of classes would be teacher training classes. Where classes under this head are not originated by the DMT directly, a proposal should be presented to the DMT for assessment and approval.

Some classes which can be expected to appear on a periodic basis are listed below:

a. Membership

This class presents an overview of Immanuel Church history, our Statement of Faith and Bylaws, and other topics of interest to those considering membership. While we present this as a first year class, it is our expectation that it will be offered either annually or bi-annually at the discretion of the Elder Board. The class runs approximately five weeks.

b. The Elder-Led Church

This class provides a Biblical perspective on Immanuel Church's governance. The class runs six weeks.

c. Baptism

This class presents the case for baptism, explaining Immanuel Church's views and requirements for the candidate. As with the membership class, we fully expect this class will be offered at least annually at the discretion of the Elder Board. The class runs one week.

d. Small Groups

This class serves a varied purpose. It provides opportunity to introduce those who share an interest in forming or becoming part of a small group. In this regard, it allows commonality of schedule and interest to lead to a more 'organic' forming of groups. It also provides an opportunity for training those who wish to host, lead, or

teach in a small group setting. Finally, it offers an opportunity for small group fellowship to those who may only have the Sunday School hour available for such pursuits.

E. Other Resources

These classes have definite value, but do not fit within the program as currently envisioned, particularly as both of them easily require three trimester classes to present properly. May we recommend them as possible materials to be used in a small group setting?

a. CASKET/EMPTY

This class uses materials from Carol Kaminski and David Palmer to present a mnemonically arranged survey of the Old and New Testament text. The survey provides the student with a good overview of the grand themes of Scripture, as well as an appreciation for the organization of revelation in the layout of the Biblical record.

b. Essential Truths of the Christian Faith

This class will make use of the book, “Essential Truths of the Christian Faith” by R.C. Sproul to consider a wide ranging list of doctrinal topics. This is, if you will, the graduate class for Faith Essentials, presenting the student with opportunities to explore and assess doctrine with the perspective gained from previous courses.

c. Stonecroft Study Guides

These materials come recommended by the Evangelism Ministry Team, and are particularly well suited for use in either personal, one-on-one outreach to inquirers, or for use in a small group setting where the group’s goal is to help such inquirers understand the basics of Christianity. This would serve as a potential prelude to the Faith Essentials track.