

Center for Women's Leadership Studies

Grace Seminary/Women of Grace USA

Certificate in Biblical Foundations

Developing a Biblical Worldview

A worldview is a set of beliefs and presuppositions, usually acquired and acted upon without conscious thought. This course will help the learner be aware of foundational influences on one's worldview and the values that are underneath the surface of the choices we make. Learners will recognize cultural perspectives that often unwittingly get syncretized into one's understanding and practice of the Christian faith. The course will raise awareness of the difference between professed beliefs and operant beliefs, further equipping the learner to grow in integrating a biblical perspective into all areas of life. Learners will be exposed to seven important questions of spiritual theology that will provide a framework in developing a biblical perspective and thus maturing the believer to be more holistically conformed to the image of Christ.

Principles of Effective Bible Study

Examines Bible study and interpretation skills applied to a teaching ministry. The course will apply foundational principles of effective Bible study that can be used for personal study and small group Bible study leadership. Hands-on activities and assignments will help develop observational skills of the English text. Students will learn to apply hermeneutical principles to various biblical genres with the goal of interpreting the text based on its historical/cultural and literary context. Application of the meaning of the text for spiritual formation will be emphasized as well.

Essentials of Prayer

Prayer may be seen as a mystery, because it involves a relationship with Someone we cannot fully understand. This class explores what the Bible teaches about the purpose of prayer, the role of prayer for the believer, how prayer unites God's people, and key understandings of prevailing prayer. Interactive opportunities for prayer will help reinforce key concepts and serve as models for an effective prayer life.

Women in Scripture

Participants will explore God's perspective on women and wrestle with integrating this into their own value system. In order to do this, participants will explore both the Old and New Testaments to discover the various ways the image of God is represented in women, will embrace what God specifically says about women and will recognize contemporary applications of these truths to life.

Basics of Soul Care

This class will examine how to journey with others in the midst of their questions and pain. Since pain is an inevitable part of this world, we will work to develop a theology of suffering, understanding how God uses pain as part of the spiritual formation process. Instead of running from it, trying to numb it or pray it away, we will begin to ask the question of what God may be up to in our lives as we process through pain. This class will also address how to maintain balance and perspective in the midst of caring for others.

Personal Spiritual Formation

This course is devoted to helping the student specify and articulate some of the necessary avenues that lead the Christian toward greater intimacy with the Lord and toward greater maturity in the Christian walk. The course emphasizes the role of the Gospel in ongoing spiritual formation by promoting a sense of relational Christianity (as opposed to a performance-based Christianity) that is focused on appropriating Truth and yielding to the Spirit in love. The student will also have the opportunity to grow in the knowledge of self and the knowledge of God, two essential components for spiritual maturity. The role of the body of Christ will be explored, setting spiritual maturity in its proper relational context of community.

Certificate in Biblical Leadership

(Certificate in Biblical Foundations is a pre-requisite)

Biblical Foundations of Leadership

This class will discuss how to develop a philosophy of ministry and expose learners to organization and administration principles of effective leadership. We will look at the life of Jesus to learn from Him as the Master Teacher, Leader and Discipled. Students will explore Scripture to see how leaders address heart issues in the lives of people they will serve. Leadership from a biblical perspective will be countercultural and seek to reinforce living in light of Kingdom values. Students will have the opportunity to assess their own strengths and weaknesses as a leader, allowing this process to improve their leadership by being more strategic and surrendered.

Women in Ministry

Learn to work within the framework of your local church and bloom where you've been planted while inspiring other women to do the same. Building upon the topics discussed in our Women and Scripture class, we will flesh out how God uses women to empower others from a leadership perspective while navigating how to work with our brothers in Christ in a biblical and edifying manner.

Transformational Teaching

In this course learners will examine best practices for teaching ministries. This course will explore the teaching-learning process that is embedded in educational experiences, whether in the classroom or in interpersonal settings. Learning theories and educational practices will help guide the learner to strategically use proven theories in ministry settings, understand how humans acquire new knowledge, and embrace truth for transformational life change.

Relational Skills for Ministry

How do we handle the various types of relationship challenges that come our way? Leaders, especially, find themselves seeking to minister to a wide variety of people, while at the same time dealing with their own emotions and human nature. This class will examine our call to be ministers of reconciliation in this world and the practical application of biblical principles involved. We will explore the balance between grace and truth in our relationships and will discuss approaches to resolving conflicts and building up the body of Christ.

Facilitating Spiritual Formation/Soul Care

This class will help the learner understand how to cast vision for spiritual growth in those to whom you minister. It will examine the Soul Care ministry of Jesus and help the student learn to deal with the tension of personal needs versus the needs of the world. The student will learn to recognize stages of spiritual growth in those to whom we minister and be introduced to basic soul care methodology that is embedded in the larger story of God's redemptive work.

Equipping Others for Ministry

Equipping others for ministry is a part of our calling from God (Eph. 4:11-13). But how do we work with others so that we reach maturity together? This course will help you see that ministry is not just about doing the ministry yourself but teaching others to join you in various arenas of ministry. You will learn about God's equipping ministry in your own life and be challenged to imitate His methods of entrusting others with redemptive work through His Spirit. The class will explore various methods of equipping others, including mentoring, coaching and modeling, and will address the challenges of recruiting, training and retaining volunteers or key staff members.