



# Partnership Agreement Benefits

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## Introduction

### **Discipling and Multiplication.**

Village Schools of the Bible's strategic mission is directly related to the Great Commission (Mt 28:19-20). Village Schools of the Bible (VSB) is a multiplication-oriented discipling ministry. Through its course offerings, VSB seeks to multiply disciples, teachers and leaders both inside and outside the church, for the cause of Christ. This multiplication strategy is a key benefit for VSB's partners.

Together, we can accomplish so much more for the cause of Christ!

### **Spiritual Formation Roadmap.**

The spiritual formation pathway offered by VSB consists of three progressive core offerings leading towards greater spiritual maturity: Cover-to-Cover Bible Survey, Everyday Faith, and Biblical Leadership.

Ultimately, congregants hear God speaking to them personally through His Word as they are immersed in and disciplined through the entire Message of God – and that's transformational!



## General Spiritual Formation

1. VSB offers a significant opportunity for young adults, aged 13 and up, to:
  - a. Undergo deep spiritual formation through the entire Word of God under the auspices of a trained Cover-to-Cover teacher.<sup>1</sup>
  - b. Fulfill a High School Bible course if they are home schooled<sup>2</sup>.
  - c. Earn up to six College credits very inexpensively before going to College or university<sup>3</sup>.
2. VSB raises leaders for Bible Study groups or church ministries rooted deeply in the entire counsel of God<sup>4</sup>.
3. VSB equips God's people to live out their faith in everyday life outside the four walls of the church, as the priesthood of all believers (1 Pet 2:5).
4. VSB trains and equips teachers and leaders from local churches to teach Cover-to-Cover<sup>5</sup>. VSB helps equip the church to pass the baton of faith to the next generation per 2 Tim 2:2.

The above amounts to a significant discipling investment in the spiritual formation of a church's congregants -- which is vital for the life and health of the church<sup>6</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Deep spiritual formation before young adults leave home is crucial. LifeWay Research has shown that 70% of young adults aged 17-19 who attended church regularly drop out, seeing the church as no longer relevant to everyday life. (Although two-thirds of those who drop out do return to church at a later stage, one third abandon church altogether.) Factors that determine which teenagers stay in church include at least one church adult making a significant personal and spiritual investment in the teen. Those who see relevant biblical teaching and positive examples at church stop being dropouts and start being disciples. This is why VSB's discipling ministry is so important for teens. See <http://www.christianitytoday.com/edstetzer/2014/may/dropouts-and-disciples-how-many-students-are-really-leaving.html>

<sup>2</sup> High School course fulfillment through Cover-to-Cover has been worked out with Educational Consultant, Cheri Frame (see [creditsbeforecollege.com/](http://creditsbeforecollege.com/))

<sup>3</sup> VSB has a Credit Transfer Agreement with the University of Northwestern – St. Paul.

<sup>4</sup> It is crucial that each Bible Study leader is properly equipped *as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth* (2 Tim 2:15). *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work* (2 Tim 3:16-17).

<sup>5</sup> This represents a significant investment in actively raising up, equipping and releasing for service ordinary congregants within the church as the *priesthood of all believers* (1 Pet 2:5). This is a more meaningful strategy than simply bringing in professional teachers and speakers from outside the church -- who may be less personally and strategically engaged in systematic and ongoing spiritual formation of church congregants.

<sup>6</sup> VSB's discipling ministry directly addresses the endemic and increasing problem of Biblical illiteracy in today's post-Christian culture. Research shows that 1 in 5 churchgoers *never* read the Bible. Over 40% of people attending church read their Bible a mere once or twice a month. 1 in 5 evangelical Christians believe there are many ways to heaven. 59% of evangelicals believe the Holy Spirit is a force and not a personal being. Many Christians hold unbiblical views on hell, sin, salvation, Jesus, humanity, and the Bible. For more details, see <http://www.christianitytoday.com/edstetzer/2015/july/epidemic-of-bible-illiteracy-in-our-churches.html>



## Teachers and Leaders

After concluding each Cover-to-Cover Bible Survey and follow-up class, VSB will review with the church's leadership, the gifting and potential of those in the class. This includes:

1. Potential teachers and small group leaders from the class. Teachers with the gift and passion for teaching and discipling will be invited to be equipped and mentored to teach the Cover-to-Cover Bible Survey course under the auspices of VSB. VSB's role in this regard is to ensure course consistency and quality.
2. Potential small group leaders and disciplers will be invited to attend training, assuming they have completed and excelled in the Cover-to-Cover Bible Survey class.
3. Lay leaders – young and old -- with the potential to lead ministries, or provide auxiliary leadership support in the church
4. Leaders with the potential to play a servant leadership role and help start gospel movements, modeled on Biblical leadership, outside the four walls of the church (e.g. in business and everyday life, or in a broader missional capacity).

## Summary

The overall intent of a ministry partnership is to foster a church culture deeply rooted in God's Word, mobilize the congregation for the cause of Christ, build capacity for the church, and bring about a more holistically integrated application of faith in the everyday life of the congregation.

A key emphasis is on systematic spiritual formation and leadership development. The following list summarizes key benefits:

- Spiritual formation for high-school & College-bound young adults.
- Personal discipling of congregants through the entire Word of God.
- Raising up Biblically literate small groups and church leaders and teachers.
- Equipping congregants for missional impact outside the four walls of the church.
- Passing the baton of faith to the next generation.
- Multiplication of disciples & small groups.
- Raising leaders capable of mobilizing others to foster and support gospel movements.