

Grace School of Shepherding - S.O.S.

A Leadership Training Ministry of Grace Church of Napa Valley

Purpose: to glorify God by training men so **they will be able shepherd themselves, their families and the body of Christ to know the joyous all-sufficiency of Jesus Christ and thus make Disciples of Christ who in turn will make Christ known to others.** (John 10:10;13:34; Matt. 28:19-20; 1 Tim. 3:4-5; Eph. 4:11-16; 5:25-28;6:4; Phil.)

Why shepherd people to Christ?

- **Because He's infinitely glorious!** He's fully God in human flesh (Col. 2:10; Heb. 1:3-4), and **gloriously sufficient** able to deliver anyone from the penalty and power of sin into the joy and fruitfulness of fellowship and service to God (*Matt 1:21; Rom. 8:1; Col. 2:9*). Nothing is more satisfying and crucial for a Christian than knowing and experiencing Christ. *"I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ"* (Phil. 3:8).
- **Because He desires His people experience His transforming life! We're wasting our life if we're not experiencing Christ.** His goal is that every Christian would *"attain to the unity of the faith, the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ"* (Eph. 4:13). *"My peace I give you, not as the world gives . . . these things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full"* (John 14:27; 15:11).
- **Because He desires to make Himself known to those in the world through His people manifesting His life.** *"Love one another as I have loved you. By this the world will know you are My disciples, by your love for one another"* (John 13:34-35). *"The glory which you have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity so that the world may know that you sent Me, and loved them even as You have loved Me (John 17:22-23).*
- **Because He desires to use each of his children to minister to others. As His people are shepherded and equipped they in turn** *"do the work of ministry to the building up of the Body of Christ . . . according to the proper working of each individual (which) causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love"* (Eph. 4:12, 16).

How does Jesus shepherd His people to know and follow Him?

- **Through the Holy Spirit manifesting His life in them** (John 16:13-14; Gal. 5:16-17, 22-24).
- **Through obedience to the Scriptures.** *"Father, sanctify them through Your word. Your word is truth"* (John 17:17). The Bible is inspired of God and is His sufficient means of equipping His people to live godly. (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:3). As they believe and obey His Word, they experience Christ's life in them (1 Pet. 1:8;2:1; James 1:22-25)
- **Through Shepherds who equip and encourage the flock to trust and obey Christ's Word. The Lord's plan for His church starts with godly men shepherding others:**
Men equipping (shepherding) others to grow in Christ (Eph. 4:11, 13) result in **→ Christians serving** helping others to know and experience Christ (Eph. 4:12-13) which results in **→ Churches growing** as its members serve and love one another (Eph. 4:16) which results in **→ God being glorified** as non-Christians see Christ's life and many come to faith (John 13:34-35; Mt. 5:18). Jesus commissions all Christians to make disciples and to build up others in their faith (Matt. 28:19-20; Rom. 15:2), **yet also calls men to the specific responsibility of shepherding and leading their families and the church to follow Him** (1 Tim. 3:1-5; Eph. 4:11-12; 5:25-27; 6:4). He calls pastors to identify and then train faithful men to be shepherds who will then be able equip others (2 Tim. 2:2). **Therefore a central priority of Grace church is to train men to be Shepherds. That is SOS's goal.**

Objectives: by the power of Christ the following objectives are prayerfully desired for each man:

- To learn to live as a worshiper, through understanding and exalting the glories of Christ. Worship is the fuel and fountain of Christlikeness and ministry. (2 Cor.3:18; Rom.12:1-2)
- To grow spiritually into a Man of God consistently reflecting Christ-like character in every circumstance (Mt.5:16; Col.1:28; 1 Tim.3:1-3; 4:12-16).
- To understand and practice God's plan for a husband to love, provide for, understand and spiritually encourage and lead his wife to grow in the Lord. (1Tim.3:4-5; 1 Pet.3:7)
- To understand and practice God's plan for a father to shepherd his children to worship and follow Christ - including instructing, modeling, mentoring & disciplining them in love. (1 Tim.3:4-5; Eph.6:4)
- To learn to accurately study and interpret scripture, including understanding how to use Greek study tools. (2 Tim.2:15)
- To understand what expository teaching and preaching is and why it is central to the health of Christians and the church (2 Tim.4:2-4).
- To learn to prepare and teach a Biblical lesson with clarity. 1 Tim.3:2; 2 Tim.2:15; 4:3-4. Each man will have opportunities to briefly teach in the class and be evaluated and given feedback.
- To learn what true conversion is, be able to do the work of an evangelist in every situation learning to engage non-Christians in spiritual conversation, and to clearly present the gospel while answering their questions. (2 Tim.4:4; 1 Pet.3:15)
- To understand Biblical theology so as to exhort people with God's Word as well as be able to discern and defend against error. (Tit.1:9)
- To understand the basics of biblical counseling so as to be able to understand and resolve problems and issues with Scripture. (2 Tim. 3:16-17; Rom.15:14)
- To be fruitfully involved in a local church ministry of helping others to know Christ and grow spiritually (Eph.4:12, 1 Pet.4:10-11).
- To develop habits of godliness including:
 - Personal study, meditation, memorization of God's word with the goal of applying it and obeying is daily. (Jude 20; Heb.5:11-14; James 1:22-25)
 - Consistent Scripture-fueled, spirit prompted prayer (Col.4:2-4; Acts 6:4)

Plan: three avenues will be used in training men - **Instructing, Mentoring and Ministering.**

Small group Instructing: (lecture and discussion)

Bi-weekly classes 20 times a year. Classes will be Tuesday evenings from 7-9:30. There will be discussion and interaction over the biblical truth we are learning including how to apply it in our lives, families and church. There will be a time of worship and prayer together.

Elder Mentoring: Jesus modeled mentoring. He picked twelve "*so that they would be with him and that he could send them out to preach*" (Mk.3:14). Paul did the same thing "*entrusting to faithful men who would be able to teach others also*" (2 Tim.2:2). This involvement and interaction with one another was formal and informal, spontaneous and planned, relational and doctrinal.

- An Elder will meet at least monthly with each student to encourage and discuss with them how they are doing in shepherding themselves, their families or others to follow Christ.
- Students will also periodically interact in the elder's home or ministry setting watching him minister to others in counseling, teaching, hospitality, visiting or evangelism.
- The elder will periodically sit in on the student's ministry to give him feedback.

Family Ministering: Each student will be encouraged to apply what he is learning with his wife and children by:

- Being an example to His wife and children of Christlikeness.
- Discussing with His wife biblical truth He is learning.
- Praying regularly with His wife.
- Biblically understanding and cherishing His wife
- Reading Scripture with his children and shepherding them to know Christ's word.

Church Ministering: Equipping for ministry always includes involvement in ministry (Mk.3:14). Students will be involved in some small group ministry at Grace.

Church recognition: Men who complete the training will receive a Diploma of Shepherding Training and will be recognized and prayed for by the congregation. The goal is that the men continue into gospel ministries such as Elders, Deacons, growth group leaders; church planters, missionaries, ministry leaders, evangelism ministry, children or youth ministry or discipleship ministry. Future leaders of Grace must have completed S.O.S training.

Requirements to be accepted into S.O.S.

1. Completed Discovery 101 and 102.
2. Member of Grace or in process
3. Faithful attendance at worship services.
4. Faithful attendance at a Growth Group or some other small group ministry at Grace
5. Approved by elders
6. Signed commitment statement.

Requirements to complete the training

1. Attend and participate in classes (more than 2 absences per year that aren't related to illness or emergency will result in being dropped)
2. Complete assigned readings (See Bibliography of required books). The cost of the books over a 2 year period is approximately \$300. Inform the pastoral staff if you need financial assistance.
3. Memorize 40 key scriptures over the two years
4. Read through the Bible
5. Consistency in family spiritual leadership
6. Faithfulness in church ministry
7. Passing grades on Exams and quizzes
8. Lead a teaching time in the group
9. Completion of a ministry project

First Year Overview

Shepherding your heart: Becoming a Man of God in your own life

First Semester: January-June

Date	Class	Topic
		<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Worship of God: Its priority and practice. Practicum: Developing a devotional life2. The Greatness of God: His infinite perfections and Triune existence.3. The Greatness of God: His creation and sovereignty. Practicum: Learning to trust God's will4. The Grace of God: The nature and effects of our Sin. Practicum: learning to recognize our sin.5. The Grace of God: The incarnation of Christ – Practicum. Learning to live in humility6. The Grace of God: The death of Christ, Our sin imputed to Christ. Redemption and propitiation.7. The Grace of God in the life of Christ: Imputed righteousness to us. Justification8. The Grace of God in receiving Christ: Faith, The New Birth and Divine Election.9. The Grace of God in living for Christ: Christ's sufficiency through the Holy Spirit Our responsibility for godliness: Obedient faith.10. Cultivating practices of godliness: Obeying Scripture; Recognizing and overcoming sinful habits11. Cultivating practices of godliness: Learning to pray Jesus' way12. Cultivating practices of godliness: The priority and practice of love

Shepherding your family. Becoming a Man of God in your Home

Second Semester: September-December

1. Understanding the God-given nature and roles of men and women.
2. Husband's role: loving your wife by providing for and understanding her.
3. Husband's role: loving your wife by leading and honoring her. – Learning life-time romance
4. Learning to communicate biblically.
5. Learning to resolve conflicts biblically.
6. Father's role: Shepherding your child to God by biblically modeling and instructing.
7. Father's role: Shepherding your child to God by biblically correcting and protecting.
8. How to be a good Steward of your money and time.

Second Year Overview

Shepherding the family of God: Becoming a man of God in the church

1. The nature of the Church: Its purpose; membership; Leadership; Purity - Discipline; Discipleship
- 2-3. The mission of the Church: the vision, strategy and calling of local and world missions.
- 4-5. The inerrancy, authority and sufficiency of Scripture.
6. The inerrancy and sufficiency of Scripture in practice: Expository preaching and teaching
7. How to study the Bible – Part 1: Hermeneutics: understanding the rules of interpreting,
8. How to study the bible – part 2: How to break down a passage. How to do word studies.
- 9-10. Learning to prepare a bible study accurately, clearly and fruitfully
- 11-12. Learning to teach God's word with clarity. Learning how to lead a small group bible study
- 13-16. Learning to counsel biblically.
- 17-20. Learning to witness for Christ with biblical clarity and confidence.
 - a. Understanding the Gospel, evangelism and conversion
 - b. Understanding how to present the gospel with clarity and sensitivity
 - c. Understanding how to answer non-Christian questions.