

MID WEEKS

AT RADIANT LIFE CHURCH

2023 COURSE GUIDE

TENTATIVE YEAR AT A GLANCE*

Quarter 1 (January 11 - March 29)

- Spiritual Formation
- Missions & Outreach
- Marriage

Quarter 2 (April 12 - June 21)

- Bible Survey
- Ministry How To's
- Marriage

Quarter 3 (August 9 - October 11)

- Counter Formation (Spiritual Formation: Part 2)
- Worship & Prayer
- Missions & Outreach
- Alpha Classes

Quarter 4 (October 18 - December 20)

- Bible Survey
- Parenting
- Communication

*Class offerings and dates subject to change

BIBLE SURVEY

Summary

The Bible is the inspired Word of God, and over the centuries it has changed people's lives and led them to God. Yet sometimes it can be a difficult book to understand. The culture in which the Bible was written is so different from our own that at times we struggle to understand what it means or how it is relevant to our modern lives. In these 20 sessions, you'll discover historical context for each book and how the Bible tells a unifying story that points to Jesus.

Sessions 1 (11 weeks)

Week 1: Genesis / Exodus

Week 2: Leviticus / Numbers

Week 3: Deuteronomy / Joshua

Week 4: Matthew / Mark

Week 5: Luke / John

Week 6: Acts / Romans

Week 7: Judges / Ruth

Week 8: 1 & 2 Samuel

Week 9: 1 & 2 Kings

Week 10: Galatians / Ephesians

Week 11: Philippians / Colossians

Session 2 (9 weeks)

Week 1: 1 & 2 Chronicles

Week 2: Ezra / Nehemiah

Week 3: 1 & 2 Thessalonians / 1 & 2 Timothy

Week 4: Titus / Philemon / Hebrews

Week 5: Esther / Job

Week 6: Psalms / Proverbs

Week 7: James / 1 & 2 Peter

Week 8: 1, 2, & 3 John

Week 9: Revelation

Recommended Reading:

- The Bible from 30,000 Feet by Skip Heitzig
- The Bible from 30,000 Feet Workbook by Skip Heitzig

COMMUNICATION

Summary

We know from Scripture that God uses a wide variety of communication methods with His people. At times He was in the whisper, others in visual communication, on occasion through silence, and a plethora of additional ways we can glean from. This course will cover communication from a Godly perspective, while offering practical, real-life examples of how to apply the gift of communication that God has given each of us..

Course Outline

Week 1: Active listening/Nonverbal communication/visual communication

Week 2: Respect/Empathy

Week 3: Written communication//reading tone//setting the tone

Week 4: Blanket statements and shifting perspectives

Week 5: Taking ownership

Week 6: Conflict resolution

Week 7: Verbal communication/Understanding your communication style and how it's perceived by others

Week 8: Internal chatter

Week 9: Using social media as a ministry communication tool.

Recommended Reading

- How to Have That Difficult Conversation by Henry Cloud
- Wounded by Terry Wardel
- The Five Love Languages by Gary Chapman

COUNTER FORMATION

Summary

In Counter Formation, we will be learning how we are shaped by the three enemies of the soul, the shifts we need to make in our faith development, and address some of the common obstacles to a thriving relationship with Jesus.

Course Outline

Week 1: What is counter formation?

- Overview/defined and explained
- Beginning with the assumption that we're over exposed to worldly discipleship and under exposed to Biblical formation.
- Conformed versus transformed
- Charts from Darren R.

Week 2: Enemies of the Soul: The World

Week 3: Enemies of the Soul: The Flesh

Week 4: Enemies of the Soul: The Devil

Week 5: Shifts: Consumption to Contribution / Insecurity to Love / Exhaustion to Rest

Week 6: Shifts: Pride to Humility / Individual to Communal / Doubt to Faith

Week 7: Navigating Deconstruction

- Biblical illiteracy
- Hypocrisy
- The existence of evil
- Politicized Christianity
- Self-denial

Week 8: Sexuality and Gender

Week 9: Digital Babylon

- Five practices from Faith for Exiles

Week 10: The Redemptive Edge

- Jon Tyson
- Dealing with Conflict/Persecution

Recommended Reading

- The Screwtape Letters by C.S. Lewis
- Live No Lies by John Mark Comer
- Faith for Exiles by David Kinnaman and Mark Matlock

MARRIAGE

Summary

While a lifetime could be spent learning your spouse, yourself, and how to best love one another, this course will cover some consistent themes that will either propel or hinder growth in a healthy marriage. This session is meant for all seasons of married life, and can be fruitful to take part in together or separately.

Course Outline

Week 1: Know your spouse

Week 2: Communication tools

Week 3: Protecting the heart of your spouse

Week 4: Fighting well

Week 5: Let's talk about Sex

Week 6: Finances

Week 7: Common misconceptions

Week 8: How does faith play a part in our marriage?

Week 9: Adventures, laughter and fun.

Week 10: Seasons of life

Week 11: Review

Recommended Reading

- The 7 Principles for Making Marriage Work by John Gottman
- Created for Connection: A Guide for Christian Couples by Sue Johnson & Kenneth Sanderfer
- Communication: Key to Your Marriage by H. Norman Wright

MINISTRY HOW-TO

Summary

Want some practical teaching on ministry? This course will be split into two parts where we will learn first on our 'heads and hearts' and then move onto our 'hands'. When we have our mission and our motives in the right place it helps give us direction as we move forward with the specifics in the areas of ministry where we serve.

Course Outline

Week 1: FAT Leaders

- Being faithful, available, and teachable.

Week 2: Personal Preparedness

- Getting your heart and mind right to lead/serve
- The importance of knowing the vision and mission
- Being prepared to lead/teach

Week 3: Real Relationships / Life Change / Community: The Why

Week 4: Leadership Core Values: The How

- Love: People Matter
- Unity: Better Together
- Passion: Going Beyond
- Attitude: I Can, I Can

Week 5: Self-Awareness & Others-Awareness

Week 6: Conversation with People You Don't Know

Week 7: Praying for Other People

Week 8: Conflict Resolution

Week 9: Leading/Facilitating a Small Group

Week 10: Recruiting and Building Teams

Week 11: Outreach Focus

- Balloon Animals
- Face Painting

MISSION & OUTREACH

Summary

So often there is a desire to share your faith with others, but insecurity from a lack of training settles in and we can find ourselves sitting on the sidelines waiting for another opportunity. Not any more. Let's take away that excuse and join together to learn how to effectively share the gospel, see the world through the eyes of God, and respond accordingly.

Course Outline

Week 1: Missionary pathway/movements of God/A biblical worldview

Week 2: Calling X Character = Impact

Week 3: Spheres of influence/community

Week 4: Relational map/identifying opportunities

Week 5: Missional Prayer//praying for the lost//outreach prayer methods

Week 6: Practical conversation starters

Week 7: God's heart for missions//more than a lifestyle

Week 8: Equal need without equal access

Week 9: Face painting

Week 10: Ballooning

Week 11: Community

Recommended Reading:

- Change the Map by Mark Durene
- Cross Cultural Servanthood by Duane Elmer
- Live Life on Purpose by Claude Hickman

PRAYER & WORSHIP

Summary

The Bible gives a plethora of ways to worship and pray, and still, it's so easy to second guess yourself, compare and hold back. This course will dive deeper into different models of worship and prayer throughout scripture and answer some common questions that could hold us back from the intimacy God desires to have with each of us.

Course Outline

Week 1: Scriptural context for prayer and worship//what is prayer//what is worship

Week 2: Postures of worship//styles of worship

Week 3: Methods of prayer//models

Week 4: The Jesus prayer "Our Father who art in heaven"

Week 5: Cultivating the presence of God in our lives//a life of worship

Week 6: Ways to worship//the "un" worship

Week 7: Sensitivity to the Spirit//listening//responding

Week 8: Praying for healing//results//unanswered prayers

Week 9: Praying in confidence//what are we expecting//spiritual authority

Week 10: Praying for others//praying in public//outreach prayer

Recommended Reading

- The Unquenchable Worshipper by Matt Redman
- Holy Roar by Chris Tomlin & Darren Whitehead
- Dangerous Prayers by Craig Groeschel
- How to Pray: A Simple Guide for Normal People by Pete Greig

SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Summary

In Spiritual Formation we will be learning about being formed in the image of Jesus through better understanding our theology, diving into spiritual disciplines, and examining how our lives and the life of the Holy Spirit intersect.

Course Outline

Week 1: What is a disciple/spiritual formation?

- Called to Jesus and called out from the world
- Potter and the clay
- How are we formed?

Week 2: Knowing Jesus / This is Jesus

- Who Jesus Is (Scripture and Self-Disclosure)
- What Jesus Taught
- What Jesus Did
- How Jesus spent His time

Week 3: Gospel

- In the air and on the ground
- Understanding the grand narrative of Scripture

Week 4: Pace / Time

- Abiding (relating to Jesus after His ascension)
- Scripture
- Rest

Week 5: Practice (Inward)

- Meditation
- Prayer
- Fasting
- Study

Week 6: Practice (Outward)

- Simplicity
- Solitude
- Submission

Week 7: Practice (Corporate)

- Confession
- Worship
- Guidance
- Celebration

Week 8: Self-Awareness / Identity

- Dallas Willard, Divine Conspiracy
- Fruit of the Spirit

Week 9: Holy Spirit

- Call
- Conviction
- Empowerment (Spirit Baptism)
- Gifts (with assessment)

Week 10: Sexuality

- Deeply Formed Life by Rich Villodas

Week 11: Counter Formation

- Counter Formation by Darrin R.
- Three enemies of the soul

Recommended Reading

- The Celebration of Discipline by Richard Foster
- The Explicit Gospel by Matt Chandler
- The Deeply Formed Life by Rich Villodas

THE ART OF PARENTING

Summary

Being a mom or dad is one of the most rewarding jobs you'll ever have. And one of the most challenging. The baby that won't sleep grows into a toddler that won't eat who becomes an adolescent that won't communicate. Not every day is a bad day, but all parents need some help and encouragement along the way. This is an approach to parenting that can reduce the stress and increase the harmony in your home.

Course Outline

Week 1: This is Parenting

- Discipler & Mentor
- Resources
- Intentional Family Time
- Family Fun Challenges

Week 2: The Goal of Parenting

- Priorities
- Secure Children
- Parents Need Mentors
- What You Model Matters

Week 3: Forming Character

- Through Discipline
- Each Child Is Unique
- To Discipline or Not
- Is it Sin or Is It Childishness

Week 4: Applying Discipline

- Behavior Modification vs. Heart Transformation
- What's In Your Heart
- Effective Means of Discipline
- Choosing the Best Approach

Week 5: Building Relationships

- Relationship Basics for Your Children
- Winning the Heart of Your Child
- Parent Now, Friend Later
- Fellow Sinner, Fellow Repenters

Week 6: Understanding Identity

- Your Child has a God-Given Identity
- Each Child is a Masterpiece
- Help Your Children Discover Who God Made Them to Be

Week 7: Nurturing Identity

- Male & Female He Created Them
- Your Child's Spiritual Identity
- Learning About God Together

Week 8: Preparing for Mission

- The Gradual Process of Release
- The Freedom of Fail
- Rivers of Influence
- When Kids Drift Away
- Raising Kids to Live on Mission

Week 9: The Power of Family

- Praying Regularly for Your Children
- Grace for Your Imperfections
- The Legacy of Parenting

Recommended Reading

- The Art of Parenting by Dennis & Barbara Rainey
- Strong Enough to Last by David Boyd
- God of the Long View by David M. Wiginton