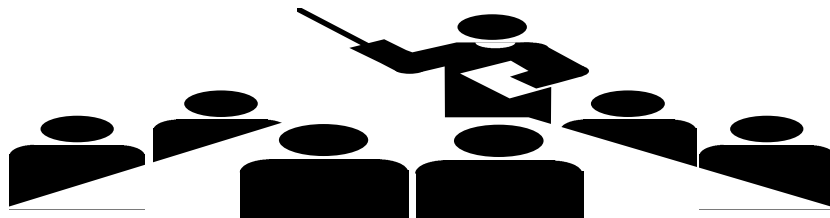


LEADERSHIP SEMINAR



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Topic:
“The Church and Christian Discipleship”

Lessons:

- Lesson #1: Class Leaders: Essential Components of Christian Discipleship
- Lesson #2: Church Officers: Leaders in Christian Discipleship
- Lesson #3: Music Ministry: A Tool in Christian Discipleship
- Lesson #4: Church Members: Foot Soldiers in Christian Discipleship
- Lesson #5: Church Ministries: A Vital Part of Christian Discipleship

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The Church and Christian Discipleship

Lesson #1:

Class Leaders: Essential Components of Christian Discipleship

Scripture: 2 Timothy 2:2

- I. The mission of the Church is to make Christian disciples.** (Mt. 28:18-20)
- II. The small group (class meeting) is Christ's method for making disciples.** (Luke 6:12-16)
 - A. Large group ministry is primarily for inspiration and motivation.
 - 1. It helps to interest people in Christ and the Mission.
 - 2. It helps people to understand the what and why of disciple making.
 - B. Small group ministry (class meeting) is primarily for teaching and training.
 - 1. It establishes people in the basics of discipleship.
 - 2. It trains people to implement Christ's teachings into their lives.
 - a. A working knowledge of Scripture
 - b. A belief in and understanding of prayer
 - c. The benefits of sharing one's life with others
 - d. The ability to communicate the message of Christ
- III. Class leaders are the faithful men and women who can teach others.** (2 Timothy 2:2)
 - A. Class leaders assist in the *immediate follow-up and orientation of new members.*
 - B. Class leaders aid the *spiritual growth and faith development* of their members.
 - C. Class leaders give their members the appropriate *spiritual nurture and support.*
 - D. Class leaders help their members to *discover, develop, and use their spiritual gifts.*
 - E. Class leaders help their members to find *their ministries in the church.*

- F. Class leaders teach their members how to *study God's word*.
- G. Class leaders teach their members how to *develop a meaningful prayer life*.
- H. Class leaders teach their members how to *be accountable to one another*.
- I. Class leaders teach their members how to *share their faith with others*.
- J. Class leaders teach their members how to *obey the commands of Christ*.

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Lesson #2:

Church Officers: Leaders in Christian Discipleship

Scripture: Acts 6:1-7

- I. The mission of the Church is to make Christian disciples.** (Mt. 28:18-20)
- II. Church Officers should be spiritually qualified.** (Acts 6:1-5)
 - A. They should be people of honest report. (good reputation)
 - B. They should be people full of the Holy Spirit.
 - C. They should be people full of wisdom.
- III. Church Officers should be ecclesiastically qualified.** (The 2004 Book of Discipline)
 - A. They should be members in full connection.
 - B. They should be members in good standing. (*Discipline* [2004], p. 194, par. 491)
 - C. They should know Methodist doctrine. (*Discipline* [2004], p. 172, par. 445)
 - D. They should know and uphold Methodist polity. (*Discipline* [2004], p. 172, par. 445)
 - E. They should be committed to Evangelism. (*Discipline* [2004], p. 172, par. 445; p. 194, par. 491)
 - 1. They must evidence the desire to witness to the gospel of the kingdom.
 - 2. They must evidence the ability to witness to the gospel of the kingdom.
 - 3. They must evidence the practice of witnessing to the gospel of the kingdom.
- IV. Church Officers should be committed to disciple making. (Acts 6:7)**
 - A. They should have been discipled and have developed the following.
 - 1. A grasp of Christian teaching and competence in personal Bible Study
 - 2. Spiritual growth and faithfulness to the appointed means of grace
 - 3. A viable prayer life and competence in intercessory prayer

- 4 Faith-sharing skills and competence in personal evangelism
- 5 Faithfulness in accountability to small group discipleship
- 6 An obedient Christian lifestyle in the pursuit of scriptural holiness

B. They should be able and willing to disciple others.

C. They should be appointed/elected to positions that are consistent with their spiritual gifts.

1. Stewards and trustees must be appointed on the basis of their ability, desire, and practice of witnessing to the gospel in and beyond their environs. (*Discipline* [2004], pp. 172, 194)
2. Class leaders must be appointed on the basis of their ability and willingness to take converts through the discipleship process and to nurture Christians in ongoing small group discipleship.
3. Teachers and Christian Education workers must be appointed on the basis of their ability and willingness to teach God's people to obey His word and to train them to serve Him faithfully.
4. Missionaries must be appointed on the basis of their ability and willingness to carry the gospel to people of different cultures, both home and overseas.
5. Lay leaders must be appointed on the basis of their ability and willingness to deepen the spiritual life of laity and to expand the denomination through education and evangelism. [*Discipline*, p.310]
6. District, Conference, and Regional, Connectional, and General Officers must be appointed or elected on the basis of their ability and willingness to equip God's people for their work of ministry.

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Lesson #3:

Music Ministry: A Tool in Christian Discipleship

Scripture: Ephesians 5:19,20; Colossians 3:16,17

- I. The mission of the Church is to make Christian disciples.** (Mt. 28:18-20)

- II. Music Ministry plays a major role in making Christian disciples.** (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16)
 - A. We are to speak to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. (Eph. 5:19)
 - 1. Music ministry can be used to share the gospel with those who are seeking Christ.
 - 2. Music ministry can be used to inspire those who are serving Christ.
 - 3. Music ministry can be used to encourage those who are disheartened.

 - B. We are to teach & admonish one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. (Col. 3:16)
 - 1. Music ministry can be used to teach Christians about God and His word.
 - 2. Music ministry can be used to help Christian grow spiritually.
 - 3. Music ministry can be used to admonish Christian to obey God's word.

- III. Music Ministry plays a major role in the public and private worship of God.** (Psalm 95:1,2)
 - A. Music ministry can be used to enhance our public worship of God. (Isaiah 42:10-12)

1. Sing unto the Lord a new song.
2. Sing His praise from the ends of the earth.
3. Let the wilderness and the cities thereof lift up their voice.
4. Let the inhabitants of the rocks sing.
5. Let them shout from the top of the mountain.
6. Let them give glory unto the Lord.
7. Let them declare His praise in the islands.

B. Music ministry can be used to enhance our private worship of God.

1. We are to make melody in our hearts to the Lord. (Eph. 5:19)
2. We are to sing with grace in our hearts to the Lord. (Col. 3:16)

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The Church and Christian Discipleship

Lesson #4:

Church Members: Foot Soldiers in Christian Discipleship

Scripture: Acts 8:1-4

I. The mission of the Church is to make Christian disciples. (Mt. 28:18-20)

II. Church members must commit themselves to become disciples of Christ. (Acts 2:41-47)

A. There are three qualifications for those received into Probationary Membership.

(The Book of Discipline [1996], pp. 330-331)

1. They must have an earnest desire to be saved.
2. They must be repentant and endeavor to lead a holy life.
3. They must be determined to attend the appointed means of grace.

B. There are eight qualifications for those received into Full Membership.

(The Book of Discipline [1996], pp. 332-333)

1. They must confirm their Baptismal Covenant.
2. They must have "saving faith" in the Lord, Jesus Christ.
3. They must believe in the doctrines of the Holy Scriptures.
4. They must be willing to be cheerfully governed by the rules of the church.
5. They must hold sacred the ordinances of God.
6. They must endeavor to promote the welfare of the Redeemer's Kingdom.
7. They must cherish friendly feelings toward all persons, especially the church.
8. They must contribute of their earthly substance according to their ability to support the gospel and the benevolent enterprises of the church.

III. Church members must share their faith with others in spite of the persecution. (Acts 8:1-4)

- IV. Church members must be actively involved in personal evangelism.** (1 Peter 2:9, 10)
- A. They have the *authority to pray* to God on behalf of those who are lost. (1 Peter 2:9)
 - B. They have the *responsibility to proclaim* the God's good news to those who are lost. (1 Peter 2:9)
 - C. They have the *privilege to share* the story of our salvation to those who are lost. (1 Peter 2:10)
- VI. Church members must be ready to share the gospel at all times.** (Romans 1:14-17)
- A. Readiness begins with a personal experience of salvation.
 - B. Readiness is enhanced by a personal assurance of salvation.
 - C. Readiness is greatly enhanced by an unmistakable conception of salvation by faith.
 - D. Readiness is most enhanced by a mastery of a clear presentation of the gospel.
 - E. Readiness is connected to a willingness to go and carry the gospel to others.

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Lesson #5:

Church Ministries: A Vital Part of Christian Discipleship

Scripture: Acts 2:36-47

- I. The mission of the Church is to make Christian disciples.** (Mt. 28:18-20)
- II. Outreach Ministries create opportunities to share Christ with the community.** (Acts 2:36-40)
- A. Outreach ministries must be organized to serve the temporal *needs* of the community.
 - B. Outreach Ministries must be organized around the members' *gifts, talents, and resources*.
 - C. Outreach Ministries must create opportunities to *share Christ* with those they serve.
- III. Discipleship Ministries initiate & assimilate converts into the church.** (Acts 2:41-42)
- A. Converts are *initiated* into the church through baptism. (Acts 2:41)
 - 1. The baptism of water by an ordained minister celebrates the believer's salvation.
 - 2. The baptism of the Holy Spirit by Jesus Christ puts him/her in the body of Christ.
 - 3. The baptism of love by the congregation initiates him into the local church.
 - B. Converts are nurtured through the teaching ministry. (Acts 2:42)
 - C. Converts are assimilated into the church through Christian fellowship. (Acts 2:42)
 - D. Converts are nourished through the breaking of bread. [communion] (Acts 2:42)

E. Converts are strengthened through the intercessory prayer ministries. (Acts 2:42)

IV. Special Ministries meet the temporal and spiritual needs of church members. (Acts 2:43-46)

A. Anointed clergy and laity were instruments of God's supernatural power. (Acts 2:43)

B. Committed Christians shared their resources in order to help the needy. (Acts 2:44-45)

C. Small group ministry facilitated the meeting of the temporal and spiritual needs.(Acts 2:46)

V, Service Ministries greatly enhance the evangelistic appeal of worship services. (Acts 2:47)

A. Service ministries help to make worship a meaningful experience. (Acts 2:47)

B. Service ministries help the church win the favor of all the people. (Acts 2:47)

C. Service ministries help to foster the church's spiritual and numerical growth. (Acts 2:47)