

General Overview

Biblical discipleship/counseling that is based firmly on the Word of God has always been vital to the church's life and ministry. A commitment to the inerrancy of Scripture and to its complete sufficiency as a guide for all of life's conduct is essential for true ministry. The **SELF-STUDY COURSE IN BIBLICAL DISCIPLESHIP/COUNSELING** has been developed to assist those who are committed to this basic belief, and desire to be biblically equipped for a discipleship/counseling ministry.

During the process of completing this study, students will learn how the principles and truths of the Old and New Testaments apply to actual practices of faith and conduct in individual and family life.

The length of time for completion of the course is completely determined by the student, although 400-600 hours of study are usually required. While work in this course can begin after completion of the **SELF-CONFRONTATION** course, it would also be helpful to attend the **BIBLICAL DISCIPLESHIP/COUNSELING COURSE II**. Work in the **SELF-STUDY COURSE** may continue throughout the biblical discipleship/counseling training.

This course is not to be merely an exercise on paper; rather, it is designed to be a believer's personal workbook and reference manual for discipleship/counseling. Therefore, each time that personal study in the Scriptures is required in discipling/counseling another, it should — as much as possible — be done in conjunction with the various parts of this self-study course.

Course Description

In order to understand and apply biblical answers to the needs of each disciple/counselee, the biblical discipler/counselor must learn certain essential truths from Scripture and be able to explain them clearly. If you desire to study the Scriptures systematically from a discipleship/counseling perspective, this **SELF-STUDY COURSE** is a practical training guide. It consists of three major parts:

- I. Doctrinal Survey — A biblical study of doctrinal words as they apply to discipleship/counseling
You will find a comprehensive concordance or topical Bible to be especially helpful in studying each of the twelve doctrinal subjects. However, even without these reference works, your diligent study of God's Word will always prove to be profitable. As you study this portion of the course, you will begin to compile your own list and explanations of meaningful verses/passages. You can use this to help disciples/counselees recognize and gain biblical hope, see the need for biblical change, understand specific changes to be made in their lives, and complete specific homework assignments to accomplish that change in becoming doers of the Word.
- II. Old Testament Survey — A study of Old Testament biblical characters and books from a discipler/counselor's perspective

This part contains two sections:

- A. Biblical Character Study — In Section A., you will study the lives of 24 biblical characters, as though each character himself were coming to you to seek answers to the problems in his life.
- B. Study of Poetic and Prophetic Books — In Section B., you will identify major discipleship/counseling principles from Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, and the prophetic books.

III. Biblical Discipleship/Counseling Survey

Part III consists of two sections:

- A. Section A asks a variety of questions that have to do with discipleship/counseling topics, principles, development of reference materials, etc.
- B. Section B is a study in the Gospels, focusing on the way that Jesus Himself disciplined/counseled. You will look at Jesus' understanding of man's problems, types of questions that Jesus asked, the way He helped establish hope, changes He showed individuals they must make, and homework assignments He gave to specific people.

Materials Necessary for the Study

You should use the following reference books for the **SELF-STUDY COURSE**:

- **REQUIRED:**
 - A literal translation of the Bible, such as the King James Version (KJV) Bible, the New King James Version (NKJV) Bible, New American Standard (NAS) Bible, the New International Version, the English Standard Version (ESV) Bible, or the New English Translation (NET) Bible.
 - An exhaustive concordance such as Young's or Strong's.
 - ***Self-Confrontation*** manual and ***Handbook for the Ministry of Biblical Discipleship/Counseling***.
- **RECOMMENDED, BUT NOT REQUIRED:**
 - A comprehensive topical Bible such as Naves' or Zondervan's, or a chain reference Bible such as Thompson's.
 - A Bible dictionary, such as Zondervan's or Unger's.

Writing Materials

- All assignments should be typed or neatly printed, on one side only. This is to give your ministry leader room for writing corrections and helpful comments. Standard sized, white paper is recommended.
- Copies of blank format pages for the completion of applicable sections are provided in this document for your use. It is not necessary for the format pages to be photocopied, although it may be the simplest. You may hand-draw columns on your own paper.
- A binder is helpful to hold your assignments and format pages. If available, use a three-ring loose-leaf binder.