

Gospel Mission Discipleship School

Class List & Descriptions 2023-2024

Foundations of Spiritual Growth

- FSG 1 Foundations of Prayer: Abiding in Christ
- FSG 2 The Father's Heart & Spiritual Sonship
- FSG 3 Worship
- FSG 4 Hearing God's Voice*
- FSG 5 Set Free Week
- FSG 6 Discipleship: Studies in Matthew (2 weeks)
- FSG 7 Encountering the Bridegroom God
- FSG 8 The Life Of David: Becoming a Man/Woman after God's Own Heart
- FSG 9 Burn Class*
- FSG 10 The Upper Room Discourse

*Will be practiced throughout the semester,

Foundations of Ministry

- FOM 1 The Gifts of the Spirit & Ministry
- FOM 2 Lifestyle Evangelism
- FOM 3 Revival and Intercession
- FOM 4 The Holy Spirit in the Book of Acts
- FOM 5 Biblical Social Justice
- FOM 6 The Church: Gifts, Serving, Calling
- FOM 7 Leadership: Becoming a Person of Influence
- FOM 8 The Lifestyle of a Messenger
- FOM 9 Intro. To Disciple Making
- FOM 10 Outreach Practicum*

* These will take place generally on Thursday afternoons during each semester.

Healthy Living

- HL 1 Healthy Relationships 1: Walking in Community
- HL 2 Healthy Relationships 2: Dating, Marriage, Singleness
- HL 3 Stewarding Your Life: Finances, Time, Discipline, Mental Health, Work

Biblical and Theological Foundations

- BTF 1 Knowing God
- BTF 2 Bible Overview 1: Old Testament*
- BTF 3 Bible Overview 2: New Testament
- BTF 4 Bible Study 1: Engaging with God's Word
- BTF 5 Bible Study 2: Preparing and Leading Bible Studies
- BTF 6 Intro to the End Times
- BTF 7 Discerning and Doctrine (1/2 week)

*This class will be taught as part of Bible Reading Discussions

Other:

- Orientation Week, Prayer Week, Missions Week, Grad/Debrief Week

Class Descriptions

Foundations of Spiritual Growth

FSG 1 Foundations of Prayer: Abiding in Christ

John 15 makes it clear that abiding in Christ is the centrepiece of the Christian life. This class will look to flesh that out, giving students practical tools for connecting more deeply with Jesus in their personal and devotional lives and encouraging them to have abiding with Christ at the centre of all that they do.

FSG 2 The Father's Heart & Spiritual Sonship

Jesus taught us to pray "Our Father..." and the revelation of God as a loving Father is one that has the power to set our hearts free and change our understanding of life from that of spiritual slaves — always trying to measure up to an angry God — to that of spiritual sonship — that of being men and women who are deeply loved by their heavenly Father. In this class we want to see our hearts set free from the bondages of dead works and come into a deep, heart-level understanding of the Father's love.

FSG3 Worship

We were made to worship God. It is the central calling of every believer to minister to His heart as priests who declare His praises (1 Peter 2:9). We want to be people who love and value Him above all else, understanding that all of life and ministry flows out of our first calling to love and worship Him. This class will help students to grow and develop as life-long worshippers, and will include plenty of time of worship together.

FSG 4 Hearing God's Voice

We believe that God still speaks today through His Holy Spirit. This class will help students learn to recognize and discern the leading of the Holy Spirit in their lives, the various ways God speaks, and also develop practices to test what they are hearing with Scripture to prevent the misuses and mistakes that have sometimes happened in this area. Because this is so central to the Christian life it will be interwoven throughout the year with practical opportunities to grow in hearing God's voice for ourselves and also to encourage others.

FSG 5 Set Free

Jesus came to break the chains of slavery to sin and to set us free. This is a week of getting free from past hurts, lies, and habitual sins in our lives, as we host an in-house Set Free retreat for our students.

FSG 6 Discipleship: Studies in Matthew (2 weeks)

Matthew's gospel has much to tell us about who Jesus is, and what discipleship should look like. From the Sermon on the Mount's description of godly character, to the sending out of messengers in Matthew 9-10, to the Olivet Discourse and the Great Commission, Matthew serves as a Holy-Spirit inspired discipleship manual and for the purpose of this class we will study it specifically from this lens. (This class will take place over two weeks — with 4 total days of teaching).

FSG 7 Encountering the Bridegroom God

Many believers are familiar with the biblical imagery of Jesus as a shepherd, or God as a Father. But the language of "bridegroom" is used throughout the Old and New Testaments to describe Jesus in His relationship to the church. In this class we will go deeper into this reality, and students will encounter God's heart in a fresh way that will uproot lies and reveal the truth of His goodness.

FSG 8 The Life Of David: Becoming a Man/Woman after God's Own Heart

The fact that God referred to David as “a man after his own heart” is a staggering reality. We know David made some pretty serious mistakes in his life, so what was it that set him apart from his contemporaries? In this class we'll study David's life and a number of his Psalms to see how we, too, can become women and men after His own heart.

FSG 9 Burn Class

We were meant to burn with passion for God. This will be a (nearly) weekly time of corporately seeking God with a focus on the Holy Spirit, growing in prayer, extended prayer ministry time, and asking for more of God's work in our lives.

FSG 10 The Upper Room Discourse

Before Jesus went to the cross, He gave a lengthy teaching to His disciples in John 13-17 where He highlighted some of the key truths that they would need to steady their hearts and focus their lives in the decades to come. He covers topics like the importance of servanthood, the ongoing ministry of the Holy Spirit in their lives, the importance of abiding, and walking in love. All of these will be focuses during this week, which is the final week of formal GMDS teaching.

Foundations of Ministry (6 weeks)

FOM 1: The Gifts of the Spirit & Ministry

There has sometimes been an air of mystery around some of the gifts of the Spirit such as healing, prophecy, words of knowledge, tongues, etc. But the Bible has some very clear and straightforward teaching about them. In this class we will learn about these gifts, explore different ways to grow in and receive them, and then learn how to function in them in a way that builds up the body of Christ.

FOM 2 Lifestyle Evangelism

Evangelism is an important part of the Christian life — but how do we walk in it? In this class students will be equipped to share their faith in every day life, to take evangelism from something we merely “do” from time to time to a lifestyle of sharing the hope that we have in Christ.

FOM 3 Revival and Intercession

There are real seasons throughout Church history where God has moved in extraordinary ways, transforming cities, regions, and even nations. In this class we'll learn about both historic revival and the pathway to it — wholehearted prayer and obedience. We're going to jump deep into the heart values behind intercession (prayer for others) and into the practicals of growing a consistent prayer life.

FOM 4 The Holy Spirit in the Book of Acts

The book of Acts covers the growth of the early church and the extraordinary work that God does through His Spirit to spread the Gospel. We have the same Holy Spirit today — and the book of Acts is meant to both encourage and instruct us to lean into His power so that we too can share the gospel with boldness and power. We want to learn from this book and apply the things that we see in Acts to our daily lives.

FOM 5 Biblical Social Justice

It is clear that God cares deeply about the widow, orphan, and the oppressed. Yet there is much of what we see in today's social justice movement that is not in alignment with Biblical values or truth. This class will explore God's heart for justice in areas such as human trafficking, Canada's indigenous peoples, and beyond, rooting students in a biblical and practical response to the suffering we see around us.

FOM 6 The Church: Gifts, Serving, Calling

God has instituted the local church as His vehicle to bring His kingdom to earth. So what does it mean to be a part of this church? How do we step into our places of serving, and find our areas of gifting and calling, especially in an age where many think they no longer need to be a part of a church? We will explore these questions and others during this week.

FOM 7 Leadership: Becoming a Person of Influence

Many people would like to be in the role of a leader, but what does it take to actually be one? What are God's processes for building and developing men and women of character and conviction? This class will take us deeper into what the Bible has to tell us about leadership.

FOM 8 The Lifestyle of a Messenger

Through the pages of Scripture we see great heroes of the faith, and in several cases the Bible actually gives us a window into their personal lives and we can see what it looks like to be a man or woman that God moves through in power. We want to study the lives of these people so that we can also walk in power and authority in our individual callings to share the Gospel.

FOM 9 Intro. To Disciple Making

In the Great Commission we are told to "go and make disciples" of all nations. This means more than leading someone to Christ. This means helping them grow as disciples — the process of discipleship. So how do we do this? And how do we raise up disciples of Jesus who will make other disciples? This will be the focus of this class.

FOM 10 Outreach Practicum

Once a week, generally Thursday afternoons, we will get out of the classroom and put our faith into practice. This may include prayer walks, service opportunities, street evangelism (including trips to Winnipeg) and other opportunities to love and bless people. Depending on the year this may include a mission trip as well. Students are also required to be involved in service in their local church/community.

Healthy Living

HL 1 Healthy Relationships 1: Walking in Community

In this class we will dive into the topic of growing healthy relationships. We will specifically address areas of the importance of community and accountability — how to walk in godly friendships, to live lives of authenticity, and deal with areas of conflict and basic peer counselling.

HL 2 Healthy Relationships 2: Dating, Marriage & Singleness

How do we navigate healthy, biblical dating relationships and marriage? What about God's heart for those who are single? This class will take us deeper into these three areas with biblical teaching and practical applications.

HL 3 Stewarding Your Life

There are many people who want to follow God more fully, and yet have habits and disciplines (or lack thereof) in their lives that hold them back from doing all that they are called to be. In this class students will learn a biblical approach to managing their finances and time. We will talk about discipline, work, and looking after our mental health as well, using the wisdom that we find in Scripture.

Biblical and Theological Foundations (7 weeks)

BTF 1 Knowing God

A.W. Tozer said “What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.” So who is God? And how do we know Him? The knowledge of God is the highest pursuit we can attain to, and in this class want to establish biblical foundations for knowing and seeking God. We will talk about living lives of seeking Him as well as understanding the heart of the gospel message, what Jesus referred to as the “Gospel of the kingdom” (Mt. 24:14).

BTF 2 Bible Overview 1: Old Testament

BTF 3 Bible Overview 2: New Testament

These two classes will provide students with a basic overview of the Old and New Testaments. We will talk about authorship, the dates the books were written, as well as major themes covered in each book. In addition to these classes all students will read through the entire Bible over the course of their year at GMDS. The Old Testament class will be taught as part of regularly Bible reading discussions.

BTF 4 Bible Study 1: Engaging in God’s Word

BTF 5 Bible Study 2: Preparing and Leading Bible Studies

These classes will equip students to study and lead studies of the Bible. We will talk about proper methods of interpretation and how to move from observing the text, to interpreting it, to applying it practically to our lives.

BTF 6 Intro to the End Times

In this class students will become familiar with some of the major end time themes of Scripture, with a very practical view towards living their lives now in light of eternity and Jesus’ return.

BTF 7 Discerning and Doctrine

We live in a time where we are seeing the rise of different types of teaching and theology. We see streams that call themselves Christian yet stray drastically from the boundaries of biblical orthodoxy. This class will help to root students in Scripture and build a firm foundation to deal with the challenges we are seeing to basic Christian beliefs.