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CD / YM 660 Teaching the Bible to Youth and Adults

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CD/YM660 - Teaching the Bible to Youth and Adults AD 305, Spring 2005

Ellen L. Marmon

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By giving himself completely at the Cross, actually dying for you, Christ brought you over to God's side and put your lives together, whole and holy in his presence. You don't walk away from a gift like that! You stay grounded and steady in that bond of trust, constantly tuned in to the Message, careful not to be distracted or diverted. There is no other Message - just this one. Every creature under heaven gets this same Message.
(Colossians 1:22-23, TM)

Course Description

Catalog: "This course examines the specific question of how the educational ministry of the local church might be enhanced by the deliberate integration of a contemporary understanding of the teaching-learning process and inductive Bible study methodology. The course will give careful attention to the principles of adult and youth discipleship and then to the practical issues of planning and implementing Bible study programs."

Translation: A three-month discovery of the "who, what, where, how, and why?" for teaching the Bible to youth and adults (12 - 112 years of age). Old and New Testaments, Wesleyan theology, the biblical understanding of hospitality, inductive Bible study, and pertinent social science theories of education will help us throughout the semester, as well as our own experiences.

Course Objectives

Having successfully completed this course, you should be able to:

1. Communicate a vision for the aim/purpose of teaching the Bible to youth and adults (the "why?" of biblical teaching).
2. Practice the discipline of *Lectio Divina* regularly, to understand more fully what the Bible says about itself, about teachers, students, and about the Holy Spirit as our ultimate teacher.

3. Identify criteria for effective curriculum selection for a broad spectrum of ministries, including small groups.
4. Apply the practice of hospitality as an analogy for teaching, focusing on the students' culture and the teacher's roles (including Jesus' example, Wesleyan theology, learning style, small group, and generational theories).
5. Develop a 4-week, small group Bible study for adults, using Transformative Learning Theory.
6. Train laypeople in the local church to lead youth and adult small groups.
7. Grow closer to God through Christian community, Bible study, prayer, and creativity.

Required Textbooks

1. Cranton, Patricia. (1994). *Understanding and Promoting Transformative Learning*. San Francisco: John Wiley & Sons, Inc. (Jossey-Bass). ISBN: 0-7879-0017-6
2. Jones, Tony. (2003). *read, think, pray, live*. Colorado Springs: NAVPRESS. ISBN: 1-57683-453-0
3. McBride, Neal F. *How To Lead Small Groups*. Colorado Springs: NAVPRESS. ISBN: 08910-93036
4. McIntosh, Gary L. (2004). *One Church, Four Generations: Understanding and Reaching All Ages in Your Church*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Brothers. ISBN: 0-8010-9137-3
5. Willimon, William H. (1990). *Shaped By The Bible*. Nashville: Abingdon Press. ISBN: 0-687-12656-8
6. Yount, William R. (1999). *Called to Teach: An Introduction to the Ministry of Teaching*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman Publishers. ISBN: 0-8054-1199-2

Recommended Textbook

Thompson, David L. (1994). *Bible Study That Works*. Nappanee, Indiana: Evangel Publishing House. ISBN: 0-916035-61-1

Course Assignments

You must complete all of the following assignments to receive a grade for CD/YM660:

1. Active Participation/Attendance

Since we only meet once each week, your attendance is critical. We'll depend on each other for interactive exercises, community support and prayer, team-based learning, and Bible study. (10 points)

2. Book Looks

1-page, double-spaced responses to each of our 5 textbooks, highlighting 3-4 main points and their relevance to teaching the Bible to youth and adults. (5 textbooks x 3 points each = 15 points) A paper isn't required for the McNeal text.

3. Journal for Reflection

Using Jones' *read, think, pray, live*, and specific scripture passages I'll provide weekly, write at least 2 entries each week on your practice of *lectio divina*. You may focus on what God is revealing to you about the spiritual discipline itself, biblical principles, application to ministry, or reflect on what God is teaching you about yourself. I'll collect your journal twice during the semester. (15 points)

4. Midterm - due March 30

3-page paper that presents your vision for teaching the Bible; using scripture, Jones, Yount, Willimon, and articles discussed in class. You'll receive more specific instructions at a later date. (15 points)

5. Curriculum/Resource Project

3-4 page report, comparing 3 different sets of curricula, written for a specific age group and purpose (for example, Bible study for retirees; confirmation for 6th-7th graders, etc.). You'll use pre-approved criteria to help you in choosing the most effective resource of the three, and to explain the reasons for your selection. (15 points)

6. Adult Bible Study/Small Group Integration

Create a 4-week adult Bible study for an intergenerational experience (20s-80s), using the principles of hospitality and various education/discipleship theories discussed in class. Specific instructions for writing out your lesson plans and rationale will come later. Each of us will also describe our studies in class for critique and discussion. (30 points)

Grading Criteria

You'll find the following descriptions on p. 29 of your *ATS Academic Catalog, 2004-2006*:

A = exceptional work: surpassing, markedly outstanding achievement of course objectives

B= Good work: strong, significant achievement of course objectives

C = Acceptable work: basic, essential achievement of course objectives

D = Marginal work: inadequate, minimal achievement of course objectives

F = Unacceptable work: failure to achieve course objectives

I'll calculate your course grade based on a 200-point scale:

200-188 = A

167-160 = B-

187-180 = A-

159-156 = C+

179-176 = B+

155-148 = C

175-168 = B

147-140 = C-

With each assignment, I will provide you with specific criteria in priority order to make the expectations as clear as possible.

Incomplete Work

The official end of each term is 4:00 pm on the last day of the examination schedule. This hour is the deadline for handing in all course work. Each instructor may set an earlier deadline for submission of any or all course work. The student must petition the faculty person involved and the student's advisor for permission to receive an "I" at the end of a semester. **A grade of "I" denotes that the work of a course has not been completed due to an unavoidable emergency, which does not include delinquency or attending to church work or other employment.** If the work of a course is incomplete at the end of a term without an emergency, a letter grade will be given based on the grades of work done, with incomplete work counted as "F" (p. 29, 2004-2006 Academic Catalog).

Assignment Due Dates

All assignments are due at the beginning of class. While I do not accept re-writes, I do encourage pre-writes and am glad to offer feedback on working drafts. You must contact me in advance with a legitimate reason, if your assignment is going to be late (illness, death in the family, etc.); otherwise, late work results in a lower grade.

- Willimon Book Look Feb. 16
- Jones Book Look Feb. 23
- Journal Mar. 16 (10 entries)
- Midterm Mar. 30
- McIntosh Book Look Apr. 6
- Yount Book Look Apr. 13
- Curriculum Project Apr. 20
- Cranton Book Look Apr. 20
- Bible Study/Presentation May 4 and 11
- Journal May 11 (15 new entries)

Tentative Class Schedule

Feb. 9	Introductions; Discipleship's aim; Ash Wednesday observance
Feb. 16	The Whole Bible for the Whole World, and For You; Wesley and Scripture
Feb. 23	Teachers, Students, and Hospitality
Mar. 2	The Holy Spirit as Teacher; Vision
Mar. 9	His Love Extends to All Generations: Builders; Erickson's Psychosocial Theory
Mar. 16	His Love Extends to All Generations: Boomers Programming (formal and informal)
Mar. 23	Spring Break!
Mar. 30	Learning Styles, Lesson Plans, and Transformative Theory
Apr. 6 (Busters);	His Love Extends to All Generations: Generation X Criteria for curriculum
Apr. 13	His Love Extends to All Generations: Millennials; Team-based ministry

Apr. 20	Small Groups for Youth and Adults Worship, fellowship, discipleship, ministry, evangelism
Apr. 27	Teaching for Transformation
May 4	Adult Small Group Bible Study Presentations
May 11	Adult Small Group Bible Study Presentations

Note: A Bibliography will be available to you at the first session of class.