

## Freedom Life School of Ministry Course Syllabus

### **Intro to Ministry 102 – Healthy and Sustainable Ministry**

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Online Course – Weekly Zoom Meeting Tuesdays 6:30-7:30PM

#### **Course Purpose:**

Leading a ministry is exciting. Experiencing the God of the universe touch our earthly lives is an amazing experience. However, ministry is hard! Increased temptations, moral failures, setbacks, financial insecurities, family demands and deadlines. As fulfilling as ministry is, it is easy to quit and fail before you get started. The world needs more effective and sustainable ministries. In fact, the world needs more effective and sustainable leaders. This course is designed to teach ministry leaders how to start ministry better and be more effective in ministry. We will study ministry leadership utilizing the teachings of Jesus, biblical accounts, books, podcasts, case studies and hands on projects. Students will be equipped with practical tools to build and grow as a leader and sustain in ministry.

#### **Required Texts:** (to be purchased by students prior to class start)

Groeschel, Craig. (2008). *It: How Churches and Leaders Can Get It and Keep It*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan.

#### **Suggested Texts:**

Villodas, R., & Scazzero, P. (2020). *The deeply formed life: five transformative values to root us in the way of Jesus*. WaterBrook.

MacDonald, G. (2017). *Ordering your private world*. W Publishing Group.

#### **Course Objectives (How will we get there?):**

1. Define & explain sustainable and effective ministry; identify good & bad examples of ministry leadership; and recognize ministry leadership examples in scripture.
2. Recognize the pitfalls of ministries and how to prevent them.
3. Create or improve upon a ministry by practicing the different principles taught in class.
4. Learn and adopt practical tools that will help students grow personally and professionally.

#### **Course Requirements:**

1. Reading Assignments (10%) – Students are to complete the assigned reading material for the course. The reading is to be completed by the module due date in which the material is presented, prior to the Zoom class meeting for the module so that the student is prepared for class discussions.
  - a. Book Reading Assignments - The required reading for each book assigned (*It:How Churches and Leaders Can Get It and Keep It*) should be done thoroughly to support understanding of the principals described.
  - b. Scripture Reading Assignments – The scripture readings assigned in each module will be discussed during the associated lecture(s) for that module. Students are to complete the assigned readings for exposure to the text prior to viewing the lecture.
2. Lectures/Video Clips (15%) – Students are to view the associated lectures and video clips by the module

due date in which the material is presented. This will be prior to the Zoom class meeting for the module so that the student has accomplished related essay questions, assignments and is prepared for class discussions. Outlines of each lecture, along with copies of the associated PowerPoint presentations, can be provided for each module to aid the student's note-taking, but are not intended to be used in lieu of viewing the lectures. Lectures are included within all modules, and each should be viewed in one sitting prior to the associated Zoom class.

- a. Video Clips - To supplement for additional reading each module will have video clips attached to it. Each video clip is used to further our dialogue in our designated module and add to students ministry toolbox. Students will be expected to take one page of notes per module.

3. Written Assignments/Essay Questions (30%) – Each module includes questions for the student to answer based on the content presented in the readings, lectures and video clips. Students are to complete the questions and submit them by the module due date. This will be accomplished prior to the Zoom class meeting for the module so that the student is prepared for class discussions.

- a. *Ministry Toolbox* - Students will use this as a way of collecting thoughts, quotes, action steps for their lives and ministries. One page of notes required for each module. Papers can be formatted with bullet points, can include quotes and raw thoughts. Each Paper can include answer to these questions:

1. What resonates with me? Why?
2. What am I struggling with? Why?
3. What do I need to put in my toolbox?
4. What can I use right now?
5. What Questions do I have?

- b. *Practical/Personal Assignments* - Students will be focused on growing themselves through personal assignments that may require them to think introspectively. One aspect of this coursework is not just doing the assignment but developing as a ministry leader. Students will be able to provide responses to assignments and questions via uploading them through the dashboard within the applicable module.

4. Zoom Meeting Participation (5%) – There will be a Zoom class meeting for each of the 8 modules for the course. Students are to attend, and participate in, each meeting unless previously excused by the course instructor. Students are expected to join each meeting prepared for class discussions by having viewed assigned lectures/video clips and completed readings & written assignments for the applicable module.

- a. Excused absences from Zoom class meetings are to be limited to no more than two per student, if at all possible.
- b. To receive an excused absence the student must submit a request to the course instructor via email at least 72 hours prior to the meeting (the preceding Saturday 6:30PM Eastern). If an emergency occurs (i.e., illness, family or ministry situation/crisis) less than 72 hours before class an explanatory email or text may be submitted to the course instructor.

5. Accountability Partners(10%) - The purpose of accountability partners flows out of the value of community that is key to the FSOM. We learn and grow best in a community of intimate relationships. That is why many assignments give you opportunities to connect more deeply with each other. Accountability partners are a key part of this. While it will take a little time investment to set up these weekly meetings, it will have a positive impact on your learning and your character growth.

- a. Students will connect each week with your two preassigned accountability partners for at

least 15 minutes and discuss what your *Ministry Action Plan* and whatever else the learning activity instructs you.

6. Ministry Action Plan(30%) – Through this project, students will understand the key principles of leading an effective and sustainable ministry. Students will act as ministry leaders looking to start a new ministry in their church. They will use the principles of our class to create a presentation (video and outline) for their senior pastor and how they will start and lead this ministry. There will be three key parts to this project.

1. Students will be able to give a healthy assessment of the principles they have learned throughout the course.
2. Students will take the principles of this class to develop a written Ministry Action Plan.
3. Finally, students will actually present their Ministry Action Plan (MAP) and record it.

This project gives students the opportunity to develop a tangible product that reflects not only knowledge acquisition, but application and analysis of leadership and ministry development in a practical, yet professional manner. You may upload your video file to one of the following online storage locations: Vimeo or YouTube. Then post the link using the upload options in the module by the due date.

6. Weighting of Course Requirements for Grading: This is a Pass/Fail course and to receive a passing grade the student must accomplish an accumulative total of at least 80% of the course requirements which are weighted as shown below:

- Reading Assignments 10%
- Lectures/Video Clips 15%
- Written Assignments/Essay Questions 30%
- Accountability Partners 10%
- Zoom Meeting Participation 5%
- Final Project 30%

### **Course Modules:**

#### Module Theme Lecture

Welcome/Course Overview The Big Idea

Week 1 - Healthy Ministry is Purposeful

Week 2 - Healthy Ministry is Focused

Week 3 - Healthy Ministry is Clear

Week 4 - Healthy Ministry is Impactful

Week 5 - Healthy Ministry is Inclusive

Week 6 - Healthy Ministry Grows

Week 7 - Healthy Ministry is Vibrant & Resilient.

Week 8 - Healthy Ministry is Sustainable

**All Assignments are due June 6th.**

**Course Policies:**

**Development and Strengthening of Biblical Interpretation Competency:**

- So that the student is aware of continuing evaluation and assessment, our faculty is using criteria for student competency that we are seeking in the area of biblical interpretation, as reflected in the paragraph below. Toward that end, we have specified competencies that the student will develop and demonstrate as a result of each course in the Theology core. Although *Intro to Ministry 102* is part of the Leadership Development core, it can contribute to one's competency in Level 1 and 2.
- Biblical interpretation: The student understands the Bible in its historical, literary, and theological contexts in order to apply and communicate the Scriptures.
  - Level 1 – The student is able to carry out inductive Bible study by means of observation, interpretation, application, and correlation.
  - Level 2 – The student is able to practice elements of biblical study that reflect sound hermeneutics.
  - Level 3 – The student is able to interpret the Bible and do biblical theology using a method that engages in the analysis and synthesis of Bible books and that reflects a broad knowledge of the content of the entire Bible, together with historical and theological influences.
  - Level 4 – The student is able to conduct exegetical and biblical theological research in from multiple literary genres, and is able to communicate its significance leading to spiritual transformation.

**The Presence of the Instructor:**

You can expect your instructor to participate substantially in this course. In addition to producing the videotaped lectures for each module and reviewing all assignments, the instructor will participate in each Zoom class meeting for all eight modules of the course. Should students have questions about the course materials and/or assignments they may address them to the instructor via email.

**Late Assignments:**

All assignments will be due the Sunday prior to our Zoom meeting. Final Projects will be due no later than June 6th. No late assignments will be accepted unless due to an extreme emergency.