**Grace Development Program 2017-2018**

**Objective:** The Grace Development Program is a 9-month study designed to grow one’s knowledge of God and His Word, a love for the gospel, and faithfulness in following the teachings and commands of Jesus.

With an aim toward ‘living out’ right theology, the curriculum and structure of the course will focus on three core competencies for each student: Sound Doctrine, Knowledge of God’s Word, and Christian Formation.

**Sound Doctrine**

* Pursue a love for sound doctrine (Acts 17:11)
* Clearly articulate biblical theology to one’s self and to others in a loving manner (1 Pet. 3:15; 2 Tim. 2:2)
* Apply biblical doctrine and the Word of God to the whole person (identity, relationships, faithful living)

**Knowledge of God’s Word**

* Clearly understand and articulate the metanarrative, or overarching, Story of Scripture (Creation, Fall, Redemption, Restoration) and articulate how it affects Biblical interpretation.
* Understand the development and arrangement of Scripture, including key themes or passages for each book of the Bible.
* Apply God’s Word in a pursuit of holiness (2 Tim. 3:16).
* Comfortably articulate the Gospel using Scripture (Rom. 10:17)
* Memorize significant passages of Scripture.

**The Christian Life**

* Read the Bible daily and correctly interpret and apply it to your life.
* Establish a healthy rhythm of spiritual disciplines *(bible intake, prayer, confession, repentance, fasting, scripture memorization, worship, evangelism, service, stewardship / generosity, and fellowship)* to pursue growth in doctrine, character, and mission.
* Demonstrate faithfulness through serving in the local church and being on mission in the city.
* Pursue holiness alongside others (Heb. 12:1-2).
* Increase understanding and practice of faithfulness to the teachings and commands of Jesus (Matt. 28:19-20).

**Assignments and Requirements**

**Schedule**

* Weekly, on Tuesdays from 6:00-7:30.
* Beginning September 13th, 2016 and Ending May 9th, 2017.
* Each session will contain approximately 45 minutes to 1 hour of lecture and 30-45 minutes of cohort discussions.

**Attendance**

Attendance at class sessions is required. Each student is permitted two absences per semester. Even if a student misses a class session they are required to complete all of the reading/assignments associated with the class. Without sufficient reason, if a student misses more than their allotted absences they could be dropped from the Development Program.

**Cohort Participation**

Each class session will include cohort discussion time where a leader guides participants through questions pertaining to the subject material. This discussion is invaluable for processing the personal application of the content as well as dissecting areas of unbelief, sin, or misunderstanding. Students are expected to commit to full participation in cohort discussions with graciousness and vulnerability.

**Reading**

Participants are expected to read the selected chapters from the textbook prior to corresponding lectures and cohort discussions. Reading will be taken from: *Grudem, Wayne. Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000.*

**Oral Exams**

Quarterly, as part of the cohort discussions, oral exams will be given wherein the leader will assume a ‘persona’ and present a problem or seek advice wherein participants will be required to apply their growing knowledge to real, practical situations. For example: a participant might be asked to draw upon their knowledge of the attributes of God in order to counsel a doubting friend. Grace’s Development Program is pressing toward application of knowledge and it is only beneficial in so much as it helps participants connect their theology to their lives.

**Theological Response Papers**

In each semester, participants will be asked to select a theological topic covered and write a personal statement of belief, drawing from Scripture and theological resources used in the Development Program. The responses should be 250-400 words. These assignments will require a student to form concise, clear view of specific doctrine that can be easily explained and Biblically defended. Possible Examples: The order of salvation, a Christian pursuit of justice, or the omnipotence of God.

**Ministry Response Plan**

At the conclusion of the course, participants will be asked to write a plan of response for what they have learned. How do they foresee and plan for changes in spiritual disciplines, evangelism and discipleship, worship, service in the church or community, etc. taking shape?

**Scripture Memory**

Each student will memorize 1 chapter of the Bible during each semester.

Fall Semester Scripture Memory (Choose 1 of the following or select your own) – Psalm 1, Psalm 2, Psalm 8, Psalm 22, Psalm 32, Psalm 97, Psalm 110, Isaiah 9, Isaiah 11, Isaiah 25, Isaiah 32, Isaiah 52, Isaiah 53, Isaiah 55, Isaiah 66.

Spring Semester Scripture Memory (Choose 1 of the following or select your own) – Matthew 5, Matthew 6, Matthew 7, John 14, John 15, John 16, Acts 2, Romans 5, Romans 6, Romans 8, 1 Corinthians 2, Galatians 5, 1 Peter 1, Revelation 21, Revelation 22.

**Course Calendar**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Week** | **Date** | **Chapters** | **Content** |
| Q1 | 1 | 9/17 | 1-3 | Kickoff, Gospel Fluency  |
| 2 | 9/24 | 4-5 | Revelation, Bible Intake |
| 3 | 10/1 | 6-7 | Old Testament Interpretation |
| 4 | 10/8 | 8 | New Testament Interpretation |
| 5 | 10/15 | 9-11 | Incommunicable Attributes |
| 6 | 10/22 | 12-13 | Communicable Attributes |
| 7 | 10/29 | 14 | Trinity, Oral Exam 1, Check Scripture memory |
| Q2 | 8 | 11/5 | 15-16 | Creation and Providence |
| 9 | 11/12 | 17-20 | Providence, Pt. 2 |
| 10 | 11/19 | 21-23 | Creation and Nature of Man |
| 11 | 11/26 | 24-25 | Sin and Covenants  |
| 12 | 12/3 | 26 | Person of Christ |
| 13 | 12/10 | 48  | Spiritual Disciplines, Oral Exam 2, OT Memory Passage Due, Position Paper Due |
| Break | 14 |  |
| 15 |  |
| Q3 | 16 | 1/14 | 27 | Atonement |
| 17 | 1/21 | 28-29 | Resurrection and Offices of Christ |
| 18 | 1/28 | 30 | Holy Spirit |
| 19 | 2/4 | 31-32 | Marriage, Family, Singleness |
| 20 | 2/11 | 33-36 | Conversion and Justification, order of salvation |
| 21 | 2/18 | 38-40 | Christian Life |
| 22 | 2/25 | 41-43 | Union with Christ, Oral Exam 3, Check NT Passage Memory |
| Break | 23 |  |
| Q4 | 24 | 3/18 | 44-46 | Church Part 1 |
| 25 | 3/25 | 47, 49-50 | The Church Pt. 2 and Ordinances |
| 26 | 4/1 | 52-53 | Spiritual Gifts |
| 27 | 4/8 | 54-57 | Return of Christ |
| 28 | 4/15 |  | Justice and Mercy |
| 29 | 4/22 |  | Evangelism and Mission |
| 30 | 4/29 |  | Discipleship and Multiplication |
| 31 | 5/6 |  | Oral Exam 4, Position Paper, Ministry Plan, NT Passage Due |
| 32 | 5/6 |  | Course Completion |