

Pastoral Leadership Course

Lesson Plans

Course Description

This course will help pastors more fully embrace who they are so that they can better understand God's call upon their life. Significant attention will be given to how this understanding will free the student to more purposeful, effective, and fulfilling pastoral ministry.

Primary Textbook: *An Unstoppable Force* by Erwin Raphael McManus

Course Assignments

--Weekly 1 page reflection papers

--3-5 page paper or project that identifies an opportunity/challenge in your local church and details a plan to move forward in proactive ministry

Course Outline

Session One (March 16)

Topic: *The Incarnational Pastor*

--Discovering how God can use you in your setting to make a difference for the kingdom. Incarnational ministry is about discovering God's unique call for each pastor and church.

Session Two (March 23)

Topic: *The Shaping of Leader*

--Effective, long-term pastoral ministry requires key relationships and a strong sense of call. This class will explore those components, used by God, to shape us. It will also help identify significant components that will sustain a long-term, effective, joy-based life of ministry.

Session Three (April 6)

Topic: *Creating a Culture in Your Church*

--What is the atmosphere of your church? What first impressions hit guests when they arrive? How can you create a warm, inviting atmosphere that expresses the contagious love of God?

Session Four (April 13)

Topic: *Leading Change*

--Change is inevitable. This is true in life, and it was true in the Scriptures. Yet, change can be difficult in the church. Discover how you can lead change in a way that celebrates heritage without being held captive by it.

Session Five (April 20)

Topic: *Leading Pastorally*

--Pastoral responsibility involves leadership of God's people. It is much more than just "caring for the sheep." Explore how you can lead through preaching, equipping others, and by intentionally working with your key lay leaders.

Session Six (April 27)

Topic: *Developing a Life of Wisdom*

Effective pastoral ministry requires wisdom. This class will explore practical topics such as time and energy management, setting priorities, patterns that develop wisdom in your life, and how to keep yourself (and your congregation) on track.

Session Seven (May 4) Taught by Craig Sider

Topic: *Stewardship & Worship*

God calls his people to worship Him above all else. This class will explore how pastors can help people worship God not only through the Sunday morning service, but also by developing generous hearts that express biblical stewardship.