
LEA 201 - 3 credits

Creative Problem Solving

Course Description:

Spirit-born creativity is no accident; it requires purposeful activity. This study will open the doors of your understanding so that the creativity of God can flow through you continuously in ways such as you may have only dreamed. You will examine step by step how God progressively fills each of the senses of your spirit with Himself, until His creative miracle is released into the natural realm.

Objectives:

Academic:

As a result of the course, you will:

- List and discuss the four possible sources (stances) of creativity.
- List the five senses of the spirit.
- Discuss the process of creativity from inception to fulfillment, describing how God fills each of the senses of the spirit to accomplish His purposes.
- Describe the two elements that combine to form the concept of the creative problem-solving process.
- Describe how creativity is something that can be developed and enhanced by using problem-solving techniques.
- Describe how “Why?” statements help you investigate a problem.
- Name and address the manageable elements in a complex problem.
- List and describe three types of fact-finding skills.
- Describe the difference between vertical and lateral thinking and use both modes of thinking in problem solving.
- Explain the technique of discrepancy analysis to problem situations and target causes of performance deviation.

- Describe the constellation method and use it to represent a problem and the creative objective clearly.
- Name habits and routines in your everyday life that hamper your creativity.
- Name the self-defeating mechanisms that can get in your way in group problem-solving situations.
- Describe the categories technique to organize your thinking when brainstorming.
- Name the four types of solutions that relate to the criteria for a successful solution.
- Describe the two-phase model of creative problem-solving to arrive at the best solution.
- Describe the difference between a problem and its surrounding context.
- Describe the three phases of the idea-development process.
- Describe the two phases of a good action plan.
- List techniques you can use to gain support for your problem-solving ideas.
- List the two advantages to group creativity.
- List the four main obstacles to group creativity.
- List the guidelines to follow to avoid obstacles to group activity.
- Describe the differences and advantages of the single group and the panel system for group problem-solving.
- List the three ways to keep your creativity in shape.
- List at least three imaginative techniques that can be used to practice creativity.
- List at least four strategies for maintaining peace of mind and inner stillness.
- List the four keys to hearing God’s voice.
- List the four rules of brainstorming.

- List at least four activities during which it would be appropriate and beneficial to present the eyes of your heart to the Lord, expecting Him to give you a supernatural vision.
- Discuss the three tests for determining the source of a vision.
- Discuss the relationship between the setting of the will and the confession of the mouth.
- Discuss the relationship between “spirit emotions” and action.
- Discuss the concept of “death of a vision”.

Attitudinal:

As a result of your application of the truths you learn in this course, you may recognize certain changes taking place in your attitudes, adjusting them to the following:

- You will recognize the creative process at work in you, for good and for evil.
- You will see yourself as a creative individual because the Creator lives within you.
- You will have confidence in your ability to find creative solutions to whatever problem you face.
- You will have confidence that every problem can be solved because you will break it into manageable elements.
- You will recognize the positive and negative influences on your creativity.
- You will desire to replace the habits and routines that hamper your creativity with ones that will encourage it.
- You will honor the input of others in your problem-solving endeavors.
- You will recognize your own areas of creative proficiency and experience.
- You will desire to move beyond your own human creativity and tap into the creative power of God.
- You will recognize that God is at work even in the times of “waiting” and will hold fast your faith during those times.
- You will long to constantly be incubating a word from the Lord.
- You will recognize that God is the Source of all creativity and give Him all the glory.

Standards for Grading Assignments

As indicated below, “C” or 2.0 level work is considered average. **Leaders are not average people.** You are therefore expected (required) to put forth the effort necessary to demonstrate at least “B” (3.0) level work or higher on all assignments which you submit. Any which do not will be returned to you with input from your instructor on how you can raise your grade to the expected level. **A course grade will not be given until your assignments demonstrate that you have understood the material presented in the course and allowed your life to be transformed by the Spirit and the Word studied** — the requirements for attaining a “B”.

Your individual assignments (notebooks, tests, reports) will be graded according to the following standards. These grades will be averaged together to determine your course grade. Remember, we are training leaders and leaders are above-average people. Your work will reflect that.

- “D”
 - Indicates barely passing work that is inferior to the average both in quantity and in quality.
 - Manifests a lack of initiative or sense of responsibility or both.
- “C”
 - Average work; either steady work of an acceptable quality, or work of a high quality which is uneven, irregular or fragmentary.
 - May be mechanically or outwardly correct but shows little reflection upon or personal assimilation of the material.
- “B”
 - Intelligently has fulfilled the requirements of this course.
 - Understands the subject matter presented and has applied it to his life in a limited manner but has not really made the truths his own.
- “A”
 - Grasped the material with thoroughness, industry and correctness of detail.
 - Made the material his own by thinking about it and integrating it, using originality, natural ability, and insight.

Behavioral:

If you apply the teaching of this course to your life, you will be changed. Some of these changes will be as follows:

- You will actively encourage and cooperate with the creative processes initiated by God, and actively resist the process of creating in the negative.
- You will formulate clear, concise, and useful problem statements for difficulties you face.
- You will resist the self-defeating mechanisms that get in the way of individual and group problem-solving.
- You will list the positive and negative influences on your creativity.
- You will work with the positive and resist the negative influences you discover.
- You will list the costs and benefits of each step of your problem-solving plans.
- You will appropriately solicit support for your problem-solving ideas.
- You will use group problem-solving techniques whenever it is appropriate and beneficial.
- You will use the problem-solving skills you have acquired to more effectively deal with problem areas in your life.
- You will not be satisfied with man's solutions but will seek out other people who will join with you in discovering God's creative solutions.
- You will resist the temptation to "help" God and thus produce an "Ishmael", but will instead rest in His power, timing, and love.
- You will give God all the glory for what He accomplishes through you.

Texts:

Spirit Born Creativity by Mark and Patti Virkler

"Mountain-Moving Faith" CD/DVD by Mark Virkler

Creative Problem Solving CDs and workbook by Andrew E. Schwartz

Course Requirements:

1. Listen to all assigned CDs/DVDs or attend all class sessions.
2. Completely read **Spirit Born Creativity** by Mark and Patti Virkler.
3. Complete all exercises in **Spirit Born Creativity**.
4. Completely read **Creative Problem Solving** by Andrew Schwartz.
5. Complete all exercises in **Creative Problem Solving**.
6. Earn at least a "B" on all tests.
7. Submit a paper documenting your use of the skills you learn in this course as you apply them to a problem or problems that you face.

Concisely define the problem. State the problem-solving technique(s) you applied to the problem and discuss exactly what you did. Describe the outcome, any successes, or perceived failures. What did you learn from this experience? Are there things you would do differently in a similar situation in the future? Are there aspects that you were particularly pleased with?

This paper is to be a minimum of four type-written pages and is due in your final lesson.

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Course Schedule

Lesson 1

Assignment to be completed:

Listen to or watch “Mountain-Moving Faith” by Mark Virkler.

Read the Introduction and Chapters 1 - 3 of **Spirit Born Creativity**, answering all personal application questions either in the book or in a separate notebook. Note: This book and CD form the spiritual foundation for this course. They present the process of creativity as it should be used by the Christian — out of the initiative and in the power of the Lord. The other text which you will be studying for the next eight weeks, **Creative Problem Solving**, teaches from a human perspective. It is beneficial in helping you get in touch with the creative abilities you have as one who is made in the image of the Creator. As you study **Creative Problem Solving**, try to see how each lesson fits into the creativity paradigm presented in this Lesson from **Spirit Born Creativity**. After completing **Creative Problem Solving**, we will return to **Spirit Born Creativity** and finish the process by learning how to live in communion with God and reach our creative potential.

Take the Pre-Test on pages xi - vii of **Creative Problem Solving** and submit it **to your instructor**, not to the address indicated on page xi. This test is only for your information and to motivate you about the course. This grade will not be included toward your final grade.

Complete and correct Self-Test One.

Subjects to be explored:

Creativity: A By-Product of Intimacy

God Has Made Man Creative

Overview of the Five Senses of Man's Spirit

Related Objectives:

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- You will recognize the creative process at work in you, for good and for evil.
- You will see yourself as a creative individual because the Creator lives within you.
- You will have confidence in your ability to find creative solutions to whatever problem you face.
- You will actively encourage and cooperate with the creative processes initiated by God, and actively resist the process of creating in the negative.