

Experiencing God in the Small Group

Description

Classes and other small group gatherings of believers are to be much more than studies about God. They are to be experiences with God. They are to be times of sensing the transmission of the life flow of the precious Holy Spirit among the participants. This course will teach you how to make every class a time of encounter with the Holy Spirit, in which each one receives an impartation of the anointing of the Holy Spirit. (Prerequisite: REN 103 Communion with God)

Texts:

How Do You Know? by Mark and Patti Virkler

Spirit-Anointed Teaching Seminar Guide and CDs by Mark Virkler

To Know as We Are Known by Parker Palmer

Experiencing God Together by Mark and Patti Virkler

Objectives

- You will quote the following Scripture passages:
 - ✓ Psalm 25:5
 - ✓ John 5:39,40 NIV or NAS
 - ✓ I Corinthians 2:10b-12 NIV
 - ✓ Hebrews 10:22 NAS
 - ✓ I Timothy 1:5 NAS
 - ✓ Titus 3:9
 - ✓ I Corinthians 13:12
 - ✓ John 8:31,32
- You will define each of the following terms:
 - ✓ epistemology
 - ✓ to educate
 - ✓ ginosko

- ✓ yada
- ✓ lamad
- ✓ heresy
- ✓ study
- ✓ meditate

- You will state the goal of knowing.
- You will state the roles of the mind, the heart, and teaching in knowing.
- You will discuss the source and “receptor” of truth, wisdom, understanding, and knowledge.
- You will discuss the place of external catalysts in the discovery of truth, and name at least four.
- You will contrast two kinds of wisdom.
- You will name at least four benefits of having wisdom.
- You will state the biblically-mandated function of the mind.
- You will name three proper uses of the mind, and two improper uses.
- You will discuss the significance of Psalm 73:1-17 in establishing a spiritual epistemology.
- You will discuss the relationship of the Holy Spirit and the voice of the Lord to the increase of knowledge, understanding and truth.
- You will discuss the place of dreams and visions in the discovery of truth and increase of knowledge, wisdom and understanding.
- You will name at least six catalysts for learning mentioned in the Bible.
- You will name one thing the Christian is not to learn.
- You will discuss the significance of I Timothy 1:5 and Hebrews 10:22 in education.
- You will discuss the place of adversity, trials, and suffering in the learning process.

- You will discuss the multi-faceted paradigm which Virkler recommends for discovering truth.
- You will develop a Spirit-anointed *lamad* lesson plans and discussion questions, and lead Spirit-anointed discussion groups.
- You will state Palmer’s definition of teaching.
- You will state the the three major characteristics of a learning space.
- You will have a basic understanding of the requirements and methodologies for “whole-brain” teaching.
- You will discuss the tree of knowledge of good and evil and the Tree of Life, and what our relationship should be toward each.
- You will discuss strategies to accomplish each of the following:
 - ✓ building community, openness, and trust in the small group.
 - ✓ guiding the small group in the process of self-discovery.
 - ✓ entering and merging the many stories which intersect in the small group.
 - ✓ “maintaining control” in a Spirit-led small group.
 - ✓ helping your students practice obedience to the truth in your small groups.
- You will state eight reasons why we tend to stone the prophets in for our midst, and ways in which we can overcome this tendency.

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.

Course Requirements

1. Carefully read *How Do You Know?* by Mark and Patti Virkler, answering all questions and doing all activities assigned in the text.
2. Completely read *To Know as We Are Known* by Parker Palmer as assigned, completing all the exercises found here in your Student Notebook.
3. Carefully read *Experiencing God Together* by Mark and Patti Virkler, answering all questions and completing all exercises found in the text.
4. Earn at least a “B” on all Tests (not Self-Tests).
5. Prepare and present a lesson using the principles explored in the course texts. You will submit your lesson plan or preparations, as well as a paper detailing your evaluation of how well you were able to apply the principles of the course and the level of Spirit encounter experienced by the class. The lesson will be prepared and presented as Lesson Eleven of this course, and your evaluative paper will be Lesson Twelve.

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Course Schedule

Lesson One

Assignment to be completed:

Before you begin reading, answer question one, Lesson One of the *To Know as We Are Known* questions found here in the “Exercises” section of your Student Notebook.

Prayerfully read the Preface, Introduction, and Foundation Stone #1, Chapters One - Seven, of *How Do You Know?* by Mark and Patti Virkler, answering all questions and completing all exercises. You will be submitting these answers to your instructor for grading on completeness and personal application, so record your answers in the way best suited to do this.

Memorize Psalm 25:5.

Complete and correct Self-Test One.

Related objectives:

- You will quote Psalm 25:5.
- You will state the goal of knowing.
- You will state the meanings of the words *yada* and *ginosko*.
- You will discuss the source and “receptor” of truth, wisdom, knowledge and understanding.
- You will discuss the place of external catalysts in the discovery of truth, and name at least four.
- You will contrast two kinds of wisdom.
- You will name at least four benefits of having wisdom.

Subjects to be explored:

The Goal of Knowing

Lesson Two

Assignment to be completed:

Prayerfully read Foundation Stone #2, Chapters Eight - Thirteen, of *How Do You Know?*, answering all questions and completing all (individual) exercises.

Memorize John 5:39,40 NIV or NASB.

Complete and correct Self-Test Two.

Related objectives:

- You will quote John 5:39,40 NIV or NASB.
- You will state the role of the mind in knowing.
- You will discuss the meaning of the word which is translated “study” in II Timothy 2:15 KJV.
- You will state the biblically-mandated function of the mind.
- You will name three proper uses of the mind, and two improper uses.
- You will discuss the significance of Psalm 73:1-17 in establishing a spiritual epistemology.
- You will discuss the literal meaning of “meditate” or “meditation,” and its place in “whole-brain” learning.

Subjects to be explored:

The Role of the Mind in Knowing