
MIN 510 - 4 credits

Experiencing God in the Small Group (Graduate)

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

To Know as We Are Known by Parker Palmer

Experiencing God: Lamad Encounter Groups by Mark and Patti Virkler

How Do You Know? by Mark and Patti Virkler

Spirit-Anointed Teaching Seminar Guide and CDs by Mark Virkler

Sound Doctrine Through Revelation Knowledge by Dr. Gary Greig and Dr. Mark 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
 - ✓ I Corinthians 2:1-5 NASU

- You will define each of the following terms:
 - ✓ epistemology
 - ✓ to educate
 - ✓ ginosko
 - ✓ yadah
 - ✓ 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 methods of 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 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.
- You will state the two sources of knowledge.
- You will state the accurate translation of II Timothy 2: 15a.
- You will discuss the contrasts between study and meditation.
- You will describe and experience biblical meditation.
- You will discuss at least five distinctives of the Lamad Method of Learning.
- You will describe the source, the goal and the characteristics of sound teaching or doctrine.

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, CLU is 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.

- You will discuss Abraham as a foundational model for the development of all doctrine and theology in the Church.
- You will discuss Solomon as a model for the development of doctrine and theology.
- You will discuss the parent/child model of learning in the Jewish/Christian culture.
- You will describe a false prophet or teacher, biblically.
- You will discuss the effect of accreditation on seminary education.

Course Requirements

1. Carefully read *Experiencing God: Lamad Encounter Groups* by Mark and Patti Virkler, answering all Think and Discuss questions found in the text. Do not try to answer these questions in the text. There is not enough room. These answers (along with the answers to the exercises from your other texts) will be submitted to your instructor for grading, so record your answers neatly and clearly. File the answers to all of the questions in the Exercises section of this Student Notebook.
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 *How Do You Know?* by Mark and Patti Virkler, answering the questions and doing the activities assigned in the Assignment Schedule section of this Student Notebook.
4. Carefully read *Sound Doctrine Through Revelation Knowledge*, completing the exercises as assigned.
5. *Earn* at least a “B” on all Tests (not Self-Tests).
6. Prepare and present three lessons using the principles explored in the course texts. You will submit your lesson plans and 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. Though you will want to begin working on your lessons earlier, these will be considered 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.

Carefully read the Introduction and Chapters One - Six of *Experiencing God: Lamad Encounter Groups*, completing all Think and Discuss exercises found in the text. Do not attempt to write your answers in your textbook. There is not enough room! You will be submitting the answers to all assigned exercises to your instructor for grading on completeness and personal application, so record your answers in the way best suited to do this.

Prayerfully read the Preface, Introduction, and Chapters One - Three of *To Know As We Are Known* by Parker Palmer, answering all related questions found here in your Student Notebook.

Memorize Titus 3:9.

Complete and correct Self-Test One.

Subjects to be explored:

Experiencing God

The Place of Spirit Encounter within the Small Group

What Do We Teach Tonight?

How Do We Discover Truth?

Knowing Is Loving

Education as Spiritual Formation

The Teaching Behind the Teaching

Related objectives:

- You will quote Titus 3:9. (But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and strife and disputes about the Law, for they are unprofitable and worthless.)
- You will state the meanings of the Greek word *ginosko*, and the Hebrew words *yadah* and *lamad*.
- You will have a basic understanding of the requirements and methodologies for “whole-brain” teaching.
- You will state a definition of “epistemology.”
- You will discuss four expressions of objectivity in the classroom.
- You will state the root meaning of “to educate.”
- You will discuss the relationship between obedience (in its original meaning) and truth.
- You will discuss the multi-faceted paradigm which Virkler recommends for discovering truth.