

## Freedom Life School of Ministry Course Syllabus

### **Evangelism & Apologetics - How to Share and Defend Our Faith**

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Course Dates: Tuesday, November to December, 2021

Weekly Zoom Meetings: Tuesdays 6:30-8:00pm

#### **Course Purpose:**

Understanding why and how to share and defend our faith is foundational for all who are disciples of Jesus. We have been given a commission by Jesus himself to, "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, ..." (Mt. 28:19) The Holy Spirit was given to empower us as witnesses for Jesus. Likewise we are specifically called to always be prepared to give an answer when anyone asks us for the reason for the hope we have, and to do so with gentleness and respect. (1 Pet. 3:15). In this course we will cover a range of ways God has equipped the church to share the good news of Jesus including through: prayer, acts of service, financial assistance, answering questions, sharing Jesus' life story, and the corporate worship service.

#### **Required Texts:** (please purchase new or used, prior to the first class)

*The Best Kept Secret of Christian Mission: Promoting the Gospel with More Than Our Lips.* By John Dickson. Zondervan. 2013.

#### **Recommended:**

*Questioning Evangelism: Engaging People's Hearts the Way Jesus Did.* By Randy Newman

*Confronting Christianity: 12 Hard Questions for the World's Largest Religion* by Rebecca McLaughlin.

*Urban Apologetics* by Christopher Brooks

#### **Online Resources:**

<https://jude3project.org/> (\*mission to equip Christians of African descent to contend for the faith)

<https://www.bethinking.org/>

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/WuuFkCXawLk> (Randy Newman: Questioning Evangelism lecture)

<https://youtu.be/9aHOPkiwLAW> (John Dickson chapter summaries for our main text)

#### **Course Objectives (How we will get there?):**

1. Students will demonstrate the ability to articulate and apply the principles of sharing their faith and the most common principles for defending their through assignments and Zoom meetings.
2. Students will demonstrate the ability to role play faith conversations with fellow students and then practice sharing their faith using the principles outlined in *Best Kept Secret of Christian Mission*
3. In the final project of their choice, students will articulate how to apply the principles of evangelism and apologetics to one or more relationships outside of the class.

#### **Course Requirements and Grading:**

1. Reading Assignments (20%) - Students are to complete the assigned reading material for the course. The reading is to be done by the module due date in which the material is presented, prior to the Zoom class meeting for the module so that the student is prepared for class discussions and role play activities.
2. Lecture/Video Clips (20%) - Students are to view the associated brief lecture videos by the module due date in which the material is presented. This will be prior to the Zoom class meeting for the module. Transcripts and slides for video lectures will be provided for each module to aid the student's note taking. Students are welcome to read the transcripts in lieu of viewing the video lectures if they prefer.
3. Written Assignments/Quizzes (25%) - Each module includes questions for the student to answer based on the content presented in the readings, lectures, and video clips. Students are to complete the questions prior to the Zoom class meeting for the module so that the student is prepared for class discussions.

- Details on the assignments and questions for each module are contained in your online dashboard
  - Students will be able to provide responses to assignments and questions via uploading them through the dashboard within the applicable module.
4. Zoom Meeting Participation (15%) - There will be a Zoom class meeting for each of the 8 weeks of the course (except holidays). Students are to attend and participate in each meeting unless previously excused by the course instructor. Students are expected to join each meeting prepared for class discussions by having viewed assigned lectures/video clips and completed readings and written assignments for the applicable module.
- Excused absences from Zoom class meetings are to be limited to emergency situations no more than two per student, if at all possible.
  - To receive an excused absence, the student must submit a request to the course instructor via email at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. If an emergency occurs (ie. illness, family or ministry emergency/crisis) less than 72 hours before class an explanatory email or text may be submitted to the course instructor.
5. Final Project (20%) - The final project will consist of the student's choice of sharing or defending their faith that may be captured in writing, video, audio or \*other creative format (\*pre-approval from instructor required). Students may utilize one or more of the following approaches to promoting or proclaiming the gospel.
- 1) Promoting the gospel through: prayer, corporate or individual acts of kindness, financial support of the gospel, participating in the work of the church (serving people)
  - 2) Proclaiming the gospel through: articulating a summary of the gospel message; proclaiming Jesus through faith-centered conversations with a non-believer, inviting a non-believer to a church worship service and writing about your conversation with them about their experience;
  - 3) Drafting a dialogue (questions and answers) about the gospel (real preferred but hypothetical acceptable), or capturing a dialogue where students share the full gospel message about Jesus' birth, life, miracles, death and resurrection for the purpose of leading an unbeliever to receive Jesus as Lord and Savior.
6. Weighting of the Course Requirements for Grading: This is a pass/fail course. To receive a passing grade the student must accomplish an accumulative total of at least 80% of the course requirements which are weighted a shown below:
- Reading Assignments                      20%
  - Lectures/video clips                        20%
  - Written Assignments                        25%
  - Zoom Meetings                                15%
  - Final Project                                    20%

**Course Modules:**

<u>Week</u>	<u>Chapters Covered</u>	<u>Topics Covered</u>
1	Course Overview;	What is evangelism and apologetics?
2	Chap. 1,2, & 3	Why get involved in God's Mission? The Challenge of Pluralism The Missionary Mind of Ordinary Christians
3	Chap. 4 & 5	Promoting the Gospel with Our Prayers
4	Chap. 6 & 7	Being the Light of the World (the church) Being Beautiful (your life)
5	Chap. 8	What is the Gospel?
6	Chap. 9 & 10	Promoting the Gospel with Our Lips, And Through Public Praise (church service)

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| 7 | Cap 11 & 12          | Promoting the Gospel in Daily Conversation<br>A Year in the Life of the Gospel |
| 8 | Review/Final project | Share and discuss final projects   |

**Reading and Video Schedule:**

**\*Please watch class lecture videos then complete the reading assignments and homework prior to Zoom class each week.**

Week

- 1 Watch Video #1 - Introduction & Course Overview (What is Evangelism & Apologetics)  
Textbook: *Best Kept Secret of Christian Mission* (make sure you obtain a copy)
- 2 Watch Video #2 - Why get Involved in God's Mission; The Challenge of Pluralism; The Mission Mind of Ordinary Christians  
Textbook: Chapters 1,2, & 3
- 3 Watch Video #3 - Promoting the Gospel with our Prayers & Financial Resources  
Textbook: Chapters 4 & 5
- 4 Watch Video #4 - Being the Light of the World (the church) & Being Beautiful (individuals)  
Textbook: Chapters 6 & 7
- 5 Watch Video #5 - What is the Gospel?  
Textbook: Chapter 8
- 6 Watch Video #6 - Promoting the Gospel with Our Lips (evangelism) And Through Public Praise (church service)  
Textbook: Chapters 9 & 10
- 7 Watch Video #7 - Promoting the Gospel Through Daily Conversations; And A Year in the Life of the Gospel  
Textbook: Chapters 11 & 12
- 8 Watch Video #8 - Review & Example of Final Project  
Textbook: (Optional) Review chapters as needed for final project

## **Course Policies:**

### **Development and Strengthening of Biblical Interpretation Competency:**

- So that the student is aware of continuing evaluation and assessment, our faculty is using criteria for student competency that we are seeking in the area of biblical interpretation, as reflected in the paragraph below. Toward that end, we have specified competencies that the student will develop and demonstrate as a result of each course in the Theology core. Although *Evangelism and Apologetics* is a part of the Leadership Development core, it can contribute to one's competency in Level 1 and 2.
- **Biblical interpretation:** The student understands the Bible in its historical, literary, and theological contexts in order to apply and communicate the Scriptures.
  - o Level 1 - The student is able to carry out inductive Bible study by means of observation, interpretation, application and correlation
  - o Level 2 - The student is able to practice elements of biblical study that reflect sound hermeneutics
  - o Level 3 - The student is able to interpret the Bible and do biblical theology using a method that engages in the analysis and synthesis of Bible books and that reflects a broad knowledge of the content of the entire Bible, together with historical and theological influences
  - o Level 4 - The student is able to conduct exegetical and biblical theological research in and from multiple literary genres, and is able to communicate its significance leading to spiritual transformation.

### **The Presence of the Instructor:**

You can expect your instructor to participate substantially in this course. In addition to producing the videotaped lectures for each module and reviewing all assignments, the instructor will participate in each Zoom class meeting for all eight modules of the course. Should students have questions about the course material and/or assignments they may address them to the instructor via email, text, or phone call.

### **Late assignments:**

No late assignments will be accepted unless due to an extreme emergency.

## **APPENDIX A**

### **Supplementary Bibliography**

#### Evangelism

You Found Me: New Research on How Unchurched Nones, Millennials, and Irreligious Are Surprisingly Open to Christian Faith by Rick Richardson (IVP). 2019.

Unlikely Converts: Improbably Stories of Faith and What They Teach Us About Evangelism by Randy Newman (Kregel). 2019.

Faith for Exiles: 5 Ways for a New Generation to Follow Jesus in Digital Babylon by David Kinnaman (Baker). 2019.

Gospel Witness: Evangelism in Word and Deed by David M Gustafson (Erdsmans). 2019.

How (Not) to Save the World: The Truth About Revealing God's Love to the People Right Next to You by Hosanna Wong. (Thomas Nelson). 2021.

Embracing the New Samaria: Opening Our Eyes to Our Multiethnic Future by Alejandro Mandes (NavPress). 2021.

#### Apologetics

Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis (Harper One) 2015.

A Case for Christ by Lee Strobel (Zondervan) 2016.

Believing is Seeing: A Physicist Explains How Science Shattered His Atheism and Revealed the Necessity of Faith by Michael Guillen (Tyndale Refresh) 2021.

More Than a Carpenter by Josh McDowell (Tyndale Momentum) 2009.

I'm Glad You Asked by Kenneth Boa and Larry Moody (David C Cook) 2019.

Person of Interest: Why Jesus Still Matters by J. Warner Wallace (Zondervan) 2021.