



# BETHEL CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

## COURSE: INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### COURSE SYLLABUS

#### **Course Description**

This course is intended to introduce students to the Educational concept in the Church. It is intended to give a broad foundational overview and specific focus of the purpose of Christian Education in today's world.

#### **Students will understand**

1. What the purpose for Christian Education is and what its place is in the Church.
2. What is age-appropriate teaching.
3. What is goal-oriented teaching.
4. Demonstrate understanding concerning what physical plant design means in regards curriculum design.
5. Understand the History of Christian Education in Modern Church History.

#### **ASSIGNMENTS**

1. Complete ALL reading assignments
2. Complete group exercises.
3. Design classroom for your specific class's. One for the age you teach or desire to teach plus one other.
4. Write paper for each class you choose (2 ABOVE). Paper must include what your age-appropriate teaching must include. How is your curriculum chosen or designed. Describe the method that you use to determining what the needs of your students are.

#### **GRADING**

1. 25% of grade is class participation and demonstration of class preparedness (having done reading assignments)
2. 25% of grade group participation
3. 50% of grade is papers. Papers are due the week after class is concluded; Penalties will be assessed for late papers.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY AND SUGGESTED READING'S**

*The Educational Work of the Church -N.C.HARNER Abingdon Press 193*

### **WHAT IS CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

#### **What It Is Not**

1. An intellectual process
2. Magnified above worship
3. Man-made process of lifting mankind into the kingdom
4. A panacea

#### **What It Is**

1. A relevant attempt to discover the divinely ordained process by which individuals grow toward Christ likeness.
  - A. The process is not haphazard, but is ordained by God. The process includes the methods (psychology and sociology) where with the world (sinner and saint) is reconciled to Christ. Man's natural and spiritual being's coming into wholeness.
  - B. Personality growth is never miraculous. "The wind bloweth where it will, and thou hearest the voice thereof, but knowest not from whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the spirit" (St.Jn.3:8). God's laws bring and keep everything in order.
  - C. "Toward Christ likeness" this is the goal of individual growth within the ecclesia. "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Phil.3:14).

### **SEVEN SEPS TO CHRIST LIKENESS**

A person grows through:

1. Responding to the influence of those about him
2. Getting from life the proper amount of success and affection
3. Responding to the influence of those he has not seen (books)
4. Learning how others live
5. Losing himself in ventures of service and social reconstruction.
6. Thinking through his ways of living
7. Taking it to the Lord in Prayer.

## **BUILDING A CHURCH FOR THE PEOPLE**

Put people first, thus: maximizing God, the Bible and the gospel

### **BUILD A PROGRAM FOR PEOPLE**

1. Find out all you can about the people.
  - A. What are the most pressing needs?
  - B. Where do they live and what do they do?
  - C. Why do they come to church/school?
  - D. How do they respond in worship service?
  - E. How did they respond to the last lessons?
2. Keep your churches vision/programs in mind.
  - A. What were the themes of the sermons preached recently?
  - B. What meetings were held lately at the church?
  - C. What programs is the church involved in (in reach and outreach)
  - D. How and why were visitations performed?
3. Making plans and critical decisions.
  - A. Who should assist in planning and implementation?

### **LESSON PLANS**

1. What is the aim of my lesson? What is my desired response?
2.
  - A. Information:
  - B. Values/morals
  - C. Conduct response: Here is where your desire is a specific action, inaction, and change in behavior or modification of conduct
3. What will interest them? Discovering ways to present your message in an appealing fashion. Securing true study is important
  - A. Require it
  - B. Intriguing their interest.
4. What materials will I need
  - A. Visual aids (charts, televisions, video monitors, projectors, blackboards, bulletin boards)
  - B. Learning aids (computers, books, games, crafts, recorders)
5. A good introduction
  - A. hook
  - B. purpose statement
6. Body (not in any particular order)
  - A. meat of lesson
- B. Involvement/discussion
6. Conclusion
  - A. summary –drives home the point
7. Look at upcoming lesson

## TEACHING PRINCIPLES

1. How do you make God real to your students?
  - A. You must understand how God deals with mankind and ensure that your teaching reflects that.
2. What does your pupil need and how has God provided for that?
  - A. The effective teacher is sensitive to both the needs of the students and the will of God.
3. The best way's to know the will of God is to:
  - A. Examine his Word
  - B. Ask him and trust him to guide you.
4. Summarizing your lesson's;
  - A. Locks in the information
  - B. Seals the foundation for later expansion
5. Patience and diligence are essential characteristics for effective teachers. They provide fertile ground for insightful expansion and growth.
6. Try to avoid laughing or being sarcastic when a question is asked.
7. Make sure you hear the whole question and understand it before answering it. Ask a question to clarify the question if you must.
8. Debate is beneficial; strife is detrimental to a learning environment.
9. Do not hesitate to admit that you do not know the answer to a question. False information will destroy your credibility.

## WHY BOTHER WITH CHILDREN

1. Out of sheer determination to survive
2. The children need the spiritual guidance we have to offer
3. In order to make the most out of its resource's and to replenish them
4. To keep the church in high esteem/regard in their eyes. They need to see the church as their greatest resource and God as their source. Church membership/kingdom citizenship is a high privilege and honor, it is the responsibility of the educators to transmit the values necessary too promote a healthy view of the church/kingdom
5. Youth are the soul of the church
  - A Protestant denomination once surveyed 400 children and these were some of the results.
  - 209 did not know where to turn in the bible to find the story of Jesus life
  - 102 did not know where he was born
  - 167 did not know what occupation he followed
  - 250 did not know that he taught his disciples the Lords prayer
  - 269 did not know he grew up in Nazareth
  - 127 did not know he preached the sermon on the mount
  - 204 did not know by whom he was betrayed
  - 133 did not know that he was crucified between two thieves
  - 175 did not know what the first and great commandment was

## QUESTION AND DISCUSSION

Discuss why the resurgence of religious education in the home is essential.

1. The home should be the foundational place of instruction
2. The church/kingdom values and ideals are best exercised in the home.

Discuss high technology in the classroom.

How high tech should we be? What are the pros and cons of technology?

Does technology hinder personal intimacy with the Word of God and God himself?

A. Should there be young peoples church services separate from regular service? If so how often?

B. Should the nursery provide services for the entire church service or only as an educational service?