

Village Church

Apprentice Academy

Why Apprentice Academy?

To develop biblically literate, spiritually formed and ministry minded leaders for vocational and bi-vocational ministry and Christian leadership at the Village Church and beyond – because every village needs Jesus.

What will Apprentice Academy look like?

Biblical & Systematic Theology

In the area of Biblical Theology, the Village Church Apprentice Academy aims to help Apprentice participants:

- Develop ***a passion for the study of theology***, leading ultimately to a passion for the Person the study of theology reveals – namely Jesus
- Understand, verbalize and draft a ***general & specific knowledge of major categories of systematic theology***, the content within each, and the way each points to the person and work of Jesus
- To ultimately **think more like** the One they're studying - Jesus

Character Development and Spiritual Formation

In the area of Character Development and Spiritual Formation, the Village Church Apprentice Academy aims to help Apprentice participants to:

- Develop an ***increased desire for intimacy with Jesus***, through the disciplines
- Develop an increased desire to ***open oneself to the transforming work of Jesus*** within their own lives, and discern that transforming work
- Develop an increased understanding of and competency in ***employing both active and passive spiritual disciplines*** to bridge the gap between increasing desire and development into the likeness of Jesus
- To **be distinctively and visibly more like** Jesus in character and conduct

Practical Theology

In the area of Practical Theology, the Village Church Apprentice Academy aims to help Apprentice participants to:

- Grow in an increased realization and understanding of the **centrality of the Gospel and the Person and work of Jesus** in not only all biblical, but all practical theology
- Discover a basic understanding of the Church – **what makes the Church the Church and how it is designed to function**
- Discover, develop and exercise their **God-given spiritual gifts**, understanding their role in the Body of Christ and how the gifts God has given them reflect the Person of Jesus to the Church and the community at large
- Develop a basic understanding and competency in the **art of biblical interpretation** and the way that all Scripture points forward or back to the Person and work of Jesus
- Develop a basic understanding of and competency **in Christian leadership**, with Jesus as the prime example of **practical leadership within the Church**
- Develop a basic understanding of the **qualifications and responsibilities of Elders and Deacons** within the Church, and how their offices reflect the Person of Christ
- Develop a basic understanding of and competency in **discerning and exercising biblical church discipline**, and how it purifies and protects the Body of Christ and the reputation of Jesus
- Develop a basic understanding of and competency in the **effective leading of groups** in various settings, aiding people in their journey toward Jesus
- To ultimately **minister more like** the One they are ministering with and for - namely Jesus

Weekly Gathering, Teaching & Practicum Time

Each week, participants in the Village Church Apprentice Academy will meet together for 3 hours (6:30-9:30pm) to debrief their theological reading in the context of community, as well as receive training in specific items of practical theology. This time will make up the bulk of group training within the Apprentice program. Missing more than three gatherings without valid excuse could be reason for discontinuing in the Apprentice Academy.

Biblical Theology Reading and Response

In the area of Biblical Theology, participants in the Village Church Apprentice Academy will be asked to read approximately 30 pages a week. The bulk of this reading will be taken directly from Wayne Grudem's *Systematic Theology*. The remainder of this reading will be taken from a robust choosing of authors meant to compliment the weekly readings' subject matter. The aim of this approach is to offer both a consistent systematic approach to studying theology, as well as a view of authors who have contributed to the theological discussion. Each week Apprentice participants will be asked to submit a 300 word summation of what they've taken away from that weeks' reading. Missing more than three responses without valid excuse could be reason for discontinuing in the Apprentice Academy.

Character Development & Journaling

In the area of Character Development and Spiritual Formation, participants in the Village Church Apprentice Academy will be asked to read one chapter in Adele Calhoun's *Spiritual Disciplines Handbook*, or other suggested resource, each week, employ the discipline studied through one of the suggested exercises, and draft a ½

page journal response to be submitted to the pastoral staff. The aim of this approach is to offer a consistent and comprehensive exposure to and employment of a wide range of spiritual disciplines for ongoing personalized transformation. Missing more than three responses without valid excuse could be reason for discontinuing in the Apprentice Academy.

What desired values do we have for Apprentice Academy?

- Christ-focused
- Relationship & Community
- Robust & Rigorous
- Interactive
- Mission Oriented

What will a successful season in Apprentice look like?

- Apprentice participants are more grounded than ever theologically, and as a result are thinking more like Jesus than ever before.
- Apprentice participants are more engaged than ever in ongoing spiritual disciplines and have established their own rhythms of life spiritually, becoming more like Jesus than ever before.
- Apprentice participants are better prepared than ever for practical ministry within the context of the local church.
- Apprentice men are more grounded in their identity in Jesus Christ, and lovingly lead their wives and children to Jesus in greater ways than ever before.
- Apprentice participants are released into participating in and leading areas of ministry with a greater sense of competency, character, and calling than ever before.
- Apprentice participants lovingly lead and serve the people of The Village in deeper ways than ever before.
- Apprentice participants are empowered for ministry through the local church, in the community and beyond.
- Apprentice participants confirm a sense of calling to serve as church leaders, deacons, and the men potentially as elders sometime in the future, and begin to have that calling affirmed by Village Church elders and leaders.
- Apprentice participants are sent out to plant and/or help plant other like-minded churches – because every village needs Jesus.