

Student Discipleship Academy

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Student Discipleship Academy

Dear Parent or Guardian,

My name is Gene Smith. I am the minister to students here at First Baptist Church DeSoto. I am honored that you have allowed your son or daughter to attend the student ministries of our Church. We are a Great Commission driven youth ministry. We continually encourage and equip the teens to share the gospel and to grow deep in their faith.

The statistics are alarming when it comes to the percentage of church ed teens that abandon their faith in their early twenties. There are many reasons why these students are turning their backs on their faith, but one must surely be that we are not adequately discipling them while they are young. The reality is that a majority of our students will not attend a Christian college or attain a Bible degree. Therefore, it is imperative that we do all that we can to impart the essentials of the Christian faith to your son or daughter before they graduate from high school.

Student Discipleship Academy is our attempt to prepare your child spiritually for the rough road ahead. The program is intense, and will provide a fusion of academic learning with real life application. Our Church staff is fully committed to making this program successful. Please read the information that accompanies this letter and encourage your teen to enroll. **The enrollment deadline for the upcoming term is Wednesday, May 23rd. The cost for the first text book, The AMG Concise Survey of the Bible, is \$11 and due on or before enrollment deadline.** Please feel free to call me with any questions or concerns.

To live is Christ!

Gene Smith
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(314) 420-9010 cell
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**First Baptist Church DeSoto
Student Discipleship Academy
Enrollment Application**

Please complete the following information:

Name: _____

Phone: _____ **Cell:** _____

Address: _____

Grade: _____

Have you read the attached course descriptions, requirements, and schedule? _____

Will you be able to commit the time and discipline necessary to complete the program? _____

Do you have any questions or concerns about the program?

Why are you interested in enrolling in Student Discipleship Academy?

I have read the information pertaining to this program and understand the amount of commitment necessary to fulfill its requirements. I further give the staff permission to remove me from the program if my behavior becomes a hindrance to the learning of other students.

Student Signature

Date

I give my son or daughter permission to enroll in Student Discipleship Academy and understand the level of commitment that is being requested. I acknowledge that my son or daughter might be removed from the program (after sufficient warnings) if behavior becomes a hindrance to the learning of other students.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

First Baptist Church De Soto Student Discipleship Academy Course Descriptions

New Testament Survey

An introduction to the inter-testamental history, and the contents of Matthew-Revelation with emphasis on historical context, authorship, dates, major themes, major events, and contemporary application.

Texts:

The Bible

The AMG Concise Survey of the Bible by Dr. Harry Adams

Old Testament Survey

An introduction to the canon of the Old Testament and the contents of Genesis-Malachi with emphasis on historical context, authorship, dates, major themes, major events, messianic references, and contemporary application.

Texts:

The Bible

The AMG Concise Survey of the Bible by Dr. Harry Adams

Spiritual Disciplines

An explanation of the disciplines necessary to help Christians move towards spiritual maturity. Some of the disciplines covered will include: bible intake, prayer, worship, stewardship, serving, evangelism, and fasting. This course will show how each of these disciplines help believers grow in godliness and offer practical suggestions for cultivating them on a long-term basis. Emphasis will be placed on application.

Text:

Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life by Donald. S. Whitney

Systematic Theology

An overview of what the contents of Scripture say about various doctrines including: The Bible, God, man, sin, salvation, angels, Satan, demons, the Church, and end times.

Text:

Christian Beliefs: twenty basics every Christian should know by Wayne A. Grudem

Hermeneutics

An overview of Biblical interpretation. The course will focus on how to determine the meaning of scripture, implication from meaning, and application for today. Students will gain an understanding of various literary forms in the Bible and the keys to interpreting them.

Text:

A Basic Guide to Interpreting the Bible: Playing by the Rules by Robert H. Stein

Apologetics

This course is designed to prepare believers to answer the most common objections regarding the Christian faith. Topics will include the existence of God, macro evolution, pluralism, evil, and cults.

Text:

The Case for a Creator: student edition by Lee Strobel

Engaging Culture/Ethics

This course will help students develop and apply a Biblical worldview in which they are able to engage culture in critical areas such as bioethics, abortion, sexuality, truth and morality.

Text:

Deliver Us From Evil by Ravi Zacharias

Personal Evangelism

This course will prepare students to engage in consistent, biblical evangelism by following the model set forth by Jesus himself. In addition to classroom learning, students will be required to participate in the evangelism ministry of our church.

Curriculum:

The Way of the Master Basic Training Course

Leadership

This course will examine various components of leadership including: What is leadership? Leadership vs. management, Developing a biblical theology of leadership, Essential qualities of effective leaders, and developing a ministry plan. Students will apply the principles learned in this course by serving in an internship role with one of the ministers.

Text:

Spiritual Leadership by J. Oswald Sanders

Missions

Students will learn first hand about missions as they participate on a mission trip either locally, regionally, or internationally.

Course Requirements

All of the classes above will include some or all of the following:

1. The purchase of a textbook **
2. Reading Assignments/Homework
3. Exams
4. Strong commitment

**First Baptist Church does not want to exclude students from participating in this program due to financial limitations. If financial aid is needed, please advise Gene Smith, minister to students, so that arrangements can be made.

An assessment exam will be administered during the first week of classes to help the student see areas of strength and weakness. The same exam will be administered at the end of the program to indicate the amount of information retained. These assessments are for the students benefit and to help us make appropriate modifications to the program if needed.

Students that complete the 15 month program will be recognized at a graduation ceremony and receive a certificate of completion.

Course Schedule

Classes will meet on Sunday afternoons from 5 – 6 pm in either the youth department or New Fellowship Hall. The following schedule is subject to change and additional classes may be added.

Assessment and Orientation – June 2nd

New Testament Survey – June 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th, July 1st, July 8th, July 15th (Todd)

Spiritual Disciplines – July 22nd, August 5th, August 12th, Aug. 19th, Aug. 26th, Sep. 2nd, Sept. 23rd (Gene)

Old Testament Survey – Sept. 30th, Oct. 7th, Oct. 14th, Oct. 21st, Oct. 28th, Nov. 4th, Nov. 11th (Todd)

Hermeneutics – Nov. 18th, Nov. 25th, Dec. 2nd, Dec. 9th, Dec. 16th, Jan. 6th, Jan. 13th (Gene)

Systematic Theology – Jan. 20th, Feb. 3rd, Feb. 10th, Feb. 17th, Feb. 24th, Mar. 2nd, Mar. 9th (Todd)

Apologetics – Mar. 16th, Mar. 23rd, Mar. 30th, April 6th, April 13th, April 27th, May 4th (Gene)

Engaging Culture/Ethics – May 18th, June 17th (6-9 pm), June 24th (6-9 pm) (Jeremy)

Personal Evangelism – July 6th, July 13th, July 27th, Aug. 3rd, Aug 10th, Aug. 17th, Aug. 24th (Gene)

Leadership/Ministry Practicum – Aug. 31st, Sept. 7th, Sept. 28th, Oct 5th, Oct. 12th, Oct. 19th, Oct. 26th (Todd)

Missions Practicum – July 19th – July 26th (Gene)

Comprehensive Assessment – November 2nd