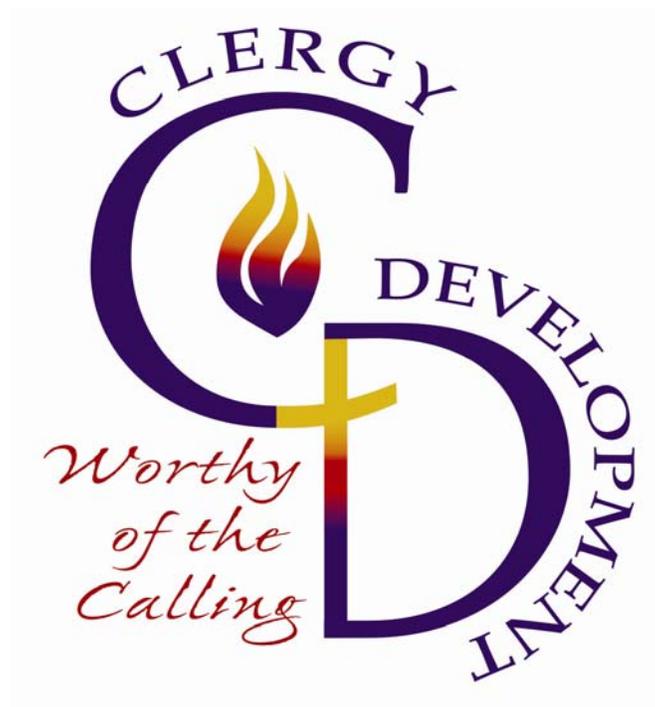

Student Guide

Exploring Christian Ministry



Clergy Development
Church of the Nazarene
Kansas City, Missouri
816-333-7000 ext. 2468; 800-306-7651 (USA)
2002

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The **Modular Course of Study** is an outcome-based curriculum designed to implement the educational paradigm defined by the Breckenridge Consultations. Clergy Development is responsible for maintaining and distributing the Modular Course of Study for the Church of the Nazarene.

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Series Foreword

A Vision for Christian Ministry: Clergy Education in the Church of the Nazarene

The chief purpose of all persons—indeed, all of the creation—is to worship, love, and serve God. God has made himself known in His deeds of creation and redemption. As the Redeemer, God has called into existence a people, the Church, who embody, celebrate, and declare His name and His ways. The life of God with His people and the world constitutes the Story of God. That story is recorded principally in the Old and New Testaments, and continues to be told by the resurrected Christ who lives and reigns as Head of His Church. The Church lives to declare the whole Story of God. This it does in many ways—in the lives of its members who are even now being transformed by Christ, through preaching, the sacraments, in oral testimony, and in mission. All members of the Body of Christ are called to exercise a ministry of witness and service. No one is excluded.

In God's own wisdom He calls some persons to fulfill the ministry of proclaiming the gospel and caring for God's people in a form that is referred to as the ordained ministry. God is the initial actor in this call, not humans. In the Church of the Nazarene we believe that God calls and that persons respond. They do not elect the Christian ministry. All persons whom God calls to the ordained ministry continue to be amazed that He would call them. They should continue to be humbled and amazed by God's call. The *Manual* of the Church of the Nazarene states, "we recognize and hold that the Head of the Church calls some men and women to the more official and public work of the ministry." It adds, "The church, illuminated by the Holy Spirit, will recognize the Lord's call" (*Manual*, Church of the Nazarene, paragraph 400).

An ordained Christian minister has as his or her chief responsibility to declare in many ways the whole Story of God as fulfilled in Jesus of Nazareth. His or her charge is to "tend the flock of God . . . not under compulsion, but willingly, not for sordid gain but eagerly. Do not lord it over those in your charge, but be examples to the flock" (1 Pet 5:2-3, NRSV). The minister fulfills this charge under the supervision of Christ, the chief Shepherd (1 Pet 5:4). Such ministry can be fulfilled only after a period of careful preparation. Indeed, given the ever-changing demands placed upon the minister, "preparation" never ceases.

A person who enters the Christian ministry becomes in a distinct sense a steward of the gospel of God (Titus 1:7). A steward is one who is entrusted to care for what belongs to another. A steward may be one who takes care of another person or who manages the property of someone else. All Christians are stewards of the grace of God. But in addition, in a peculiar sense a Christian minister is a steward of the "mystery of God," which is Christ, the Redeemer, the Messiah of God. In all faithfulness, the minister is called to "make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel" (Eph 6:19, NRSV). Like Paul, he or she must faithfully preach "the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places" (Eph 3:8-10, NRSV).

In fulfilling this commission, there is plenty of room for diligence and alertness, but no room for laziness or privilege (Titus 1:5-9). Good stewards recognize that they are

stewards only, not the owners, and that they will give an account of their stewardship to the master. Faithfulness to one's charge and to the Lord who issued it is the steward's principal passion. When properly understood, the Christian ministry should never be thought of as a "job." It is ministry—uniquely Christian ministry. No higher responsibility or joy can be known than to become a steward of the Story of God in Christ's Church. The person who embraces God's call to the ordained ministry will stand in the company of the apostles, the Early Fathers of the Church, the Reformers of the Middle Ages, the Protestant Reformers, and many persons around the world today who joyfully serve as stewards of the gospel of God.

Obviously, one who does not recognize, or who understands but rejects, just how complete and inclusive a minister's stewardship must be should not start down the path that leads to ordination. In a peculiar sense, a Christian minister must in all respects model the gospel of God. He or she is to "shun" the love of money. Instead, the minister must "pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness." He or she must "fight the good fight of the faith" and "take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called" (1 Tim 6: 11-12, NRSV).

Hence, the Church of the Nazarene believes that "the minister of Christ is to be in all things a pattern to the flock—in punctuality, discretion, diligence, earnestness; 'in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left' (2 Cor 6: 6-7)" (*Manual*, Church of the Nazarene, paragraph 401.1). The minister of Christ "must be above reproach as God's steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain, ⁸but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled, ⁹holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching . . . able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict." (Titus 1: 7-9, NASB).

In order to be a good steward of God's Story one must, among other things, give oneself to careful and systematic study, both before and after ordination. This will occur not because he or she is forced to do so, but out of a love for God and His people, the world that He is working to redeem, and out of an inescapable sense of responsibility. It cannot be too strongly emphasized that the attitude one brings to preparation for the ministry reveals much about what he or she thinks of God, the gospel, and Christ's Church. The God who became incarnate in Jesus and who made a way of salvation for all gave His very best in the life, death, and resurrection of His Son. In order to be a good steward, a Christian minister must respond in kind. Jesus told numerous parables about stewards who did not recognize the importance of what had been entrusted to them (Mt 21: 33-44; 25: 14-30; Mk 13: 34-37; Lk 12: 35-40; 19: 11-27; 20: 9-18).

Preparation—one's education in all its dimensions—for ministry in Christ's Church should be pursued in full light of the responsibility before God and His people that the ministry involves. This requires that one take advantage of the best educational resources at his or her disposal.

The Church of the Nazarene recognizes how large is the responsibility associated with the ordained Christian ministry and accepts it fully. Part of the way we recognize our responsibility before God is seen in the requirements we make for ordination and the practice of ministry. We believe that the call to and practice of Christian ministry is a gift, not a right or privilege. We believe that God holds a minister to the highest of religious, moral, personal, and professional standards. We are not reluctant to expect

that those standards be observed from the time of one's call until his or her death. We believe that Christian ministry should first be a form of worship. The practice of ministry is both an offering to God and a service to His Church. By the miracle of grace, the work of the ministry can become a means of grace for God's people (Rom 12: 1-3). One's education for ministry is also a form of worship.

The modules that comprise the Course of Study that may lead a person to candidacy for ordination have been carefully designed to prepare one for the kind of ministry we have described. Their common purpose is to provide a holistic preparation for entrance into the ordained Christian ministry. They reflect the Church's wisdom, experience, and responsibility before God. The modules show how highly the Church of the Nazarene regards the gospel, the people of God, the world for which Christ gave His life, and Christian ministry. Completing the modules will normally take three or four years. But no one should feel pressured to meet this schedule.

The careful study for which the modules call should show that before God and His Church one accepts the stewardly responsibility associated with ordained ministry.

Acknowledgments

Every module is the accumulation of effort by many people. Someone writes the original manuscript, others offer suggestions to strengthen the content and make the material more easily understood, and finally an editor formats the module for publication. This module is not different. Many people have contributed to this module.

Principal Contributor

The principal contributor for this module is Dr. William E. McCumber. Dr. McCumber has been a professor of preaching and pastoral ministry at Eastern Nazarene College, Boston, and Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego. Dr. McCumber served as an adjunct professor at Nazarene Theological Seminary in Kansas City. His teaching experience encompassed a wide range of ministerial courses including Biblical studies, New Testament exegetical courses, Greek, Pauline Theology, Johannine Theology, History of the Christian Church, History of Christian Doctrine, Systematic Theology, Doctrine of Holiness, Wesleyan Theology, Life and Work of Christ, and Philosophy.

Dr. McCumber holds baccalaureate and master's degrees from Pasadena College, the predecessor of Point Loma Nazarene University, and completed three years of graduate studies at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, GA.

Dr. McCumber has 27 years of pastoral experience. He spent thirteen years as editor of the *Herald of Holiness* and served with the *Showers of Blessing* radio ministry for seven years. He has authored 20 books and hundreds of articles.

Dr. and Mrs. McCumber reside in Gainesville, GA where Dr. McCumber serves as pastor of First Church of the Nazarene. They have five children, thirteen grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

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Syllabus

Exploring Christian Ministry

Educational Institution, Setting or Educational Provider:

Location of the Course:

Course Dates:

Name of the Instructor:

Instructor's Address, Telephone, and E-mail Address:

Rationale

The Modular Course of Study Series Foreword is a rationale for *Exploring Christian Ministry*. The module writer intends to view the minister and the ministry from a biblical perspective, to present the ministry as a high calling demanding holy living and hard work, and to encourage a hunger for and commitment to a lifetime of arduous study and patient ministry.

This module is designed for those persons who have received a call from God to full-time Christian ministry and for those who wish to explore the foundation and scope of the Christian ministry. During the module, learners will have the opportunity to examine the scriptures that provide a foundation for Christian ministry and the key components of ministry. The module content can be summarized as answers to three questions: What should the minister *BE?*, What should the minister *KNOW?*, and What should the minister be able to *DO?*

Learning is best accomplished in a collaborative and cooperative environment. A variety of learning activities are incorporated in this module including listening to lectures, completing homework assignments, and participating in discussion groups. Each learner is a valuable teaching-learning resource and will bear responsibility for the quality of the learning environment by preparing homework assignments and participating in class discussions.

This module is an introduction, a survey of the Christian ministry. As such, the module presents a variety of subjects but none comprehensively. Many topics that are introduced have been expanded into full modules and will be experienced by the learner at a later time. The learner should not expect complete answers to all questions during this module but should become aware of the range of issues and topics that encompass the Christian Ministry.

Educational Assumptions

1. The work of the Holy Spirit of Christ is essential to any process of Christian education at any level. We will consistently request and expect the Spirit's presence within and among us.

2. Christian teaching and learning is best done in the context of community (people being and working together). Community is the gift of the Spirit but may be enhanced or hindered by human effort. Communities have common values, stories, practices, and goals. Explicit effort will be invested to enhance community within the class. Group work will take place in every lesson.
3. Every adult student has knowledge and experiences to contribute to the class. We learn not only from the learning leader and the reading assignments, but also from each other. Each student is valued not only as a learner but also as a teacher. That is one reason so many exercises in this course are cooperative and collaborative in nature.
4. Journaling is an ideal way to bring theory and practice together as students synthesize the principles and content of the lessons with their own experiences, preferences, and ideas.

Outcome Statements

This module contributes to the development of the following abilities as defined in the *U.S. Sourcebook for Ministerial Development*.

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

- CN19 Ability to identify and explain the main characteristics of the nature of God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, the Human Person, Sin, Salvation, The Christian Life, the Church and Sacraments, and Eschatology.
- CN20 Ability to reflect theologically on life and ministry
- CP1 Ability to communicate publicly through oral and written mediums with clarity and creativity for the sake of fostering meaning
- CP4 Ability to write an integrative philosophy of ministry that will answer “why I do what I do when I do it?”
- CP12 Ability to appropriately express pastoral care and concern for individuals and families in crises, passages, and the normal routines of life
- CP13 Ability to offer spiritual counsel and to discern for referral counseling needs beyond the minister’s ability
- CP14 Ability to apply the knowledge of basic helping skills gained from historic Christian and appropriate contemporary models
- CP21 Ability to envision, order and participate in contextualized theologically grounded worship and to develop and lead appropriate services for special occasions (i.e. wedding, funeral, baptism, and Lord’s Supper)
- Personal Growth The development of a portfolio for assessing personal growth in character. This portfolio would include periodic self-assessment and assessment by significant others. These assessments would evaluate the minister with the “BE” categories.
- CH5 Ability to apply Christian ethics to the issues of integrity, specifically as they relate to ministers and laity for authentic Christian faithfulness and public witness
- CH9 Ability to apply understanding of his or her ongoing developmental needs across the life course of the minister to the pursuit of holy character
- CH10 Ability to demonstrate a realistic self-understanding including personal strengths, gifts, weaknesses, and areas of needed growth
- CH11 Ability to maintain the practice of Sabbath and healthy self-care
- CH12 Ability to practice faithful stewardship of personal relations including gender relationships, marriage and family, personal finance, and professional conduct
- CH14 Ability to maintain a healthy balance between family, church, and community commitments

CX2 Ability to analyze and describe congregations and communities

COURSE OBJECTIVES

To survey in basic and brief discussions

- the meaning and ground of Christian ministry
- the knowledge and skills needed for Christian ministry
- the common settings and functions of Christian ministry
- the character and behavior appropriate to Christian ministry

Course Strategies

To pursue the course objectives by

- creating a relaxed and congenial study atmosphere
- extracting course content from the teachings of Scripture
- augmenting and illustrating material with shared experiences
- questioning freely and answering candidly with mutual respect
- relating our learning to our present and anticipated ministry to others

Course Requirements

- 1. Class attendance, attention, and participation** are especially important. Students are responsible for all assignments and in-class work. Much of the work in this course is Small Group work. Cooperative, small group work cannot be made up. That makes attendance imperative. Even if one does extra reading or writing the values of discussion, dialog, and learning from each other are thwarted. Because of its foundational nature and short length, no lessons of this module may be missed. If one lesson is missed the student will be required to repeat the whole module at a later date.
- 2. Small Group Work.** Nothing is more important in this course than the small group work. The class members may be assigned to groups of three. The group members will serve as study partners for many group explorations and discussion throughout the module. Each member is responsible to listen to others respectfully and patiently, share in discussions freely and disagree agreeably, and complete assigned work responsibly and cheerfully.
- 3. Assignments**
Journaling: The only "term assignment" is your journal. It is to be used regularly, if not daily. On two occasions during the term, the journals will be checked by the instructor. Each week the homework assignment includes "Journal Prompts," which start you on interpretation and application of the themes of the lesson.

The journal should become the student's friend and treasury of insights, devotions, and ideas. Here the integration of theory and practice occurs. The spiritual life nature of the journal helps guard against the course of study being merely academic as you are repeatedly called upon to apply the principles studied to your own heart and your own ministry situation.

This journal is not a diary, not a catchall. It is, rather, a guided journal or a focused journal in which the educational experience and its implications are selected for reflection and writing.

The framers of this curriculum are concerned about the way students fall into learning "about" the Bible, or "about" the spiritual life rather than learning—that is

coming to know and internalize—the Bible and spiritual principles. The journaling experience ensures that the “Be” component of “Be, Know, and Do” is present in the course of study. Be faithful with all journaling assignments.

Daily Work: This course has regular homework assignments. It is called daily work because even though the class may meet once a week the student should be working on the course on a "daily" basis. Sometimes the homework assignments are quite heavy. The assignments are important. Even if homework is not discussed in class every session, the work is to be handed in. This gives the instructor regular information about the student's progress in the course. That is much to be preferred to waiting until a final exam or a term paper reveals only at the end of the course that a student is having difficulty.

The normal time for homework to be handed in is at the beginning of each class session. All homework is required and is due on time. Late work is not acceptable.

Course Outline and Schedule

The class will meet for 18-20 hours according to the following schedule:

Session Date	Session Time	
		1. The Ground of Christian Ministry: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Incarnate Word • The Written Word • The Preached Word
		2. The Persons Involved in Christian Ministry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Lord Who Speaks the Word • The Minister Who Has Heard the Word • The Person Who Hears the Word Through the Minister
		3. The Knowledge Required for Christian Ministry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowing Your God • Knowing Your Self • Knowing Your People
		4. The Communication Skills Needed for Christian Ministry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning to Listen • Learning to Speak • Learning to Persuade
		5. The Common Venues of Christian Ministry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Minister as Worshiper • The Minister as Counselor • The Minister as Administrator
		6. The Christian Ministry as Servanthood <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Servant Life • Sustaining the Servant Life • Persevering in the Servant Life
		Optional session: The Lord's Supper

Course Evaluation

The instructor, the course itself, and the student's progress will be evaluated. These evaluations will be made in several ways.

The progress of students will be evaluated with an eye for enhancing the learning experience by:

1. Carefully observing the small group work, critiquing the competence of reports, the balance of discussion, the quality of the relationships, the cooperation level, and the achievement of assigned tasks.
2. Noting in-class participation.
3. Careful reading of homework assignments.
4. Journal checks.

The evaluation of the course materials and the instructor will be evaluated by: frequently asking and discussing the effectiveness and relevance of a certain method, experience, story, lecture, or other activity.

Some evaluation cannot be made during the class itself. Some objectives will not be measurable for years to come. If students incorporate the best of this course into their own ministries the fruit of this educational endeavor could go on for a long time. In truth, that is what we expect.

Additional Information

A reasonable effort to assist every student will be made. Any student who has handicaps, learning disabilities, or other conditions that make the achievement of the class requirements exceedingly difficult should make an appointment with the instructor as soon as possible to see what special arrangements can be made. Any student who is having trouble understanding the assignments, lectures, or other learning activities should talk to the instructor to see what can be done to help.

Instructor's Availability

Good faith efforts to serve the students both in and beyond the classroom will be made.

Journaling: A Tool for Personal Reflection and Integration

Participating in the Course of Study is the heart of your preparation for ministry. To complete each module you will be required to listen to lectures, read books and articles, participate in discussions, and write papers. Content mastery is the goal.

An equally important part of ministerial preparation is spiritual formation. Some might choose to call spiritual formation devotions, while others might refer to it as growth in grace. Whichever title you place on the process, it is the intentional cultivation of your relationship with God. The module work will be helpful in adding to your knowledge, your skills, and your ability to do ministry. The spiritual formation work will weave all you learn into the fabric of your being, allowing your education to flow freely from your head through your heart to those you serve.

Although there are many spiritual disciplines to help you cultivate your relationship with God, journaling is the critical skill that ties them all together. Journaling simply means keeping a record of your experiences and the insights you have gained along the way. It is a discipline because it does require a good deal of work faithfully to spend daily time in your journal. Many people confess this is a practice they tend to push aside when pressed by their many other responsibilities. Even five minutes a day spent journaling can make a major difference in your education and your spiritual development. Let me explain.

Consider journaling time spent with your best friend. Onto the pages of a journal you will pour out your candid responses to the events of the day, the insights you gained from class, a quote gleaned from a book, and an 'ah-ha' that came to you as two ideas connected. This is not the same as keeping a diary, since a diary seems to be a chronicle of events without the personal dialogue. The journal is the repository for all of your thoughts, reactions, prayers, insights, visions, and plans. Though some people like to keep complex journals with sections for each type of reflection, others find a simple running commentary more helpful. In either case, record the date and the location at the beginning of every journal entry. It will help you when it comes time to review your thoughts.

It is important to chat briefly about the logistics of journaling. All you will need is a pen and paper to begin. Some folks prefer loose-leaf paper that can be placed in a three-ring binder, others like spiral-bound notebooks, while others enjoy using composition books. Whichever style you choose, it is important to develop a pattern that works for you.

Establishing a time and a place for writing in your journal is essential. If there is no space etched out for journaling, it will not happen with the regularity needed to make it valuable. It seems natural to spend time journaling after the day is over and you can sift through all that has transpired. Yet family commitments, evening activities, and fatigue militate against this time slot. Morning offers another possibility. Sleep filters much of the previous day's experiences, and processes deep insights, that can be recorded first thing in the morning. In conjunction with devotions, journaling enables you to begin to weave your experiences with the Word, and also with module material that has been steeping on the back burner of your mind. You will probably find that carrying your journal will allow you to jot down ideas that come to you at odd times throughout the day.

It seems we have been suggesting that journaling is a handwritten exercise. Some may be wondering about doing their work on a computer. Traditionally, there is a special bond between hand, pen, and paper. It is more personal, direct, and aesthetic. And it is flexible, portable, and available.

With regular use, your journal is the repository of your journey. As important as it is to make daily entries, it is equally important to review your work. Read over each week's record at the end of the week. Make a summary statement and note movements of the Holy Spirit or your own growth. Do a monthly review of your journal every 30 days. This might best be done on a half-day retreat where you can prayerfully focus on your thoughts in solitude and silence. As you do this, you will begin to see the accumulated value of the Word, your module work, and your experience in ministry all coming together in ways you had not considered possible. This is integration—weaving together faith development and learning. Integration moves information from your head to your heart so that ministry is a matter of being

rather than doing. Journaling will help you answer the central question of education:
“Why do I do what I do when I do it?”

Journaling really is the linchpin in ministerial preparation. Your journal is the chronicle of your journey into spiritual maturity as well as content mastery. These volumes will hold the rich insights that will pull your education together. A journal is the tool for integration. May you treasure the journaling process!

Lesson 1: The Ground of Christian Ministry

Due this Lesson

None

Learner Objectives

At the end of this lesson, participants will

- understand the meaning of Jesus as the Incarnate Word of God
- explain the role of the Holy Spirit and the Bible in continuing to reveal God to humanity
- accept his or her role as a Christian minister, grounded in the written Word and exegeting God's relationship with people through the preached word

Homework Assignments

Research the two main Greek terms for 'word' (*logos* and *rhema*). Write a one-page report giving their definitions and distinctions.

Select one Old Testament prophet and one New Testament preacher and compare/contrast their relationship to the word of God they proclaimed. Write a two-page report.

Read a sermon or listen to a taped sermon by some preacher, past or present, who enjoyed wide acceptance and wielded strong influence. Critique it in light of these criteria: Does it exalt Christ? Does it expound the text?

Write in your journal. Write a brief account of your conversion experience and indicate what you learned about Christ then and what you have since learned about Him.

Send the Nazarene Ministry Strength and Gifts Survey (Resource 1-5) to the person who will be the most objective and honest about *your* strengths and gifts. Choose your spouse, best friend, a trusted colleague, or a parent. Have the person complete the survey as he or she sees *your* strengths and gifts, then return the survey to you prior to the lesson 3 assignment.

The Incarnate Word

Jesus: The Perfect Revelation

Jesus understood himself to be the revelation of God.

Paul concurred with this understanding of the person of Christ.

The writer of Hebrews had this same understanding of the person and mission of Jesus.

The Imperfect Reception

God's Word in Jesus Christ will be heard without distortion after the Second Coming.

Receiving and proclaiming God's Word in Jesus Christ is essential ministry.

The Written Word

The Spirit-Formed Word

Jesus is now present to us in the person and power of the Holy Spirit.

The Spirit's testimony to Jesus is recorded in the New Testament.

The Word-Formed Preacher

The conversion experience as revelation

Bible study as continuing revelation

The Written Word

Small Group Activity

Divide into groups of three and discuss the questions below. Choose someone to be your recorder/spokesperson. In 20 minutes the spokesperson will report the results of your discussion to the whole group.

What is the relation of the Incarnate Word to the written Word?

How does the concept of the inerrancy of Scripture relate to the concept of the inspiration of Scripture?

The Preached Word

The Apostolic View of Preaching.

Paul understood preaching as a form of the word of God.

Peter shared this same understanding of preaching.

Qualifying the Definition of Preaching

Only that preaching which proclaims the Incarnate Word through exposition of the written Word is the word of God.

Preaching as the word of God involves the preacher in a continuing study of Scripture as the Word of God.

NAZARENE MINISTRY STRENGTHS & GIFTS SURVEY

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Christians earnestly seek to understand God's will for their lives. Young Christians especially often find it difficult to know God's direction for their vocation. The gifts and talents God has given us can be one good indication of God's will. This survey is designed to help you think about the ways God has equipped and used you.

For each of the following statements please circle the number at the left which best represents your reaction to the statement. As the headings indicate, you will circle "5" if the statement describes you very well, or "1" if the statement does not describe you well at all, or whichever other number best fits.

1 In the first section, please think about times when you have been part of a group responsible for some task or activity. If you have not actually experienced something addressed in a statement, please answer as you think you would act or be in that situation.

1 This statement does not describe me well at all.

2 This statement does not describe me well.

3 This statement more or less describes me.

4 This statement describes me well.

5 This statement describes me very well.

- 1 2 3 4 5 #1. I am able to help other people understand where we are going.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #2. I have joined school groups because they supported values I hold as a Christian.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #3. When I talk to groups, my message is usually full of hope.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #4. When I am in charge, I like to make the important decisions on my own.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #5. When I lead a group, I like to involve the group in making important decisions together.
- 1 2 3 4 & #6. I have trouble convincing group members to work together as a team.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #7. I like to talk to groups about good things that are possible in their future.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #8. When I choose leaders for a group, I am probably more comfortable with people who tell me what I want to hear.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #9. When I am responsible for a group, I want people around me with strong moral qualities.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #10. When I choose leaders for a group, I want people who can really make a difference.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #11. I find ways to strengthen relationships with the people who work with me.

2 Now please think about times when you have been responsible for some task or activity. How well does each of the following statements describe you'?

1 This statement does not describe me well at all.

2 This statement does not describe me well.

3 This statement more or less describes me.

4 This statement describes me well.

5 This statement describes me very well.

- 1 2 3 4 5 #12. When I am trying to get something done, I often get distracted.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #13. I usually deal with interruptions quickly and return to my task.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #14. When I am responsible for doing something, I usually can focus on doing the things that really matter.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #15. When I am responsible for doing something, I find it difficult to eliminate distractions.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #16. When I am responsible for doing something, I can quickly eliminate most interruptions.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #17. I have trouble sticking with decisions about how to do things.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #18. I find it easy to set good goals.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #19. I am a good storyteller.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #20. I like to create celebrations.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #21. I have very little imagination for creating a good party.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #22. I can usually figure out how to get things done.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #23. When I am responsible for getting something done, I am pretty good at organizing the necessary equipment.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #24. When I am responsible for getting something done, I am pretty good at planning.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #25. In worship situations, I am uncomfortable trying to lead people for whom I have responsibility.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #26. When I am responsible for a meeting, I have a great need to control things.

3 Now please think about your personal characteristics. How well do the following statements describe you?

1 This statement does not describe me well at all.

2 This statement does not describe me well.

3 This statement more or less describes me.

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5 This statement describes me very well.

- 1 2 3 4 5 #27. I find great satisfaction in helping other people come to know Christ.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #28. I have a driving need to be successful.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #29. I seem to concentrate better than most people.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #30. I am often frustrated by a weak self-concept.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #31. I am often frustrated by my weaknesses.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #32. I know the areas in which I have special talents.

1 This statement does not describe me well at all.

2 This statement does not describe me well.

3 This statement more or less describes me.

4 This statement describes me well.

5 This statement describes me very well.

1 2 3 4 5 #33. I am comfortable with the fact that I am talented in some areas and not in others.

1 2 3 4 5 #34. I rarely win any awards.

1 2 3 4 5 #35. Looking back, I would say I usually do not have the willpower to accomplish great things.

1 2 3 4 5 #36. I am generally an optimistic person.

1 2 3 4 5 #37. I wish we could go back to the "good old days."

1 2 3 4 5 #38. I find satisfaction in organizing things.

4 *Think now about your relationships with other people. How well do the following statements describe you?*

1 This statement does not describe me well at all.

2 This statement does not describe me well.

3 This statement more or less describes me.

4 This statement describes me well.

5 This statement describes me very well.

1 2 3 4 5 #39. I have a need to do things better than anyone has done before.

1 2 3 4 5 #40. I seem to have a "sixth sense" that tells me when people need help.

1 2 3 4 5 #41. When I sense that someone is hurting, I find it easy to give them comfort.

1 2 3 4 5 #42. Even when I recognize that someone is in pain, I find it difficult to know how to help them.

1 2 3 4 5 #43. People tell me they can see I really care about their pain.

1 2 3 4 5 #44. When I see someone who needs compassion, I usually try to help them.

1 2 3 4 5 #45. I think I understand people because I really listen to them.

1 2 3 4 5 #46. When I am with someone who is suffering, I suffer along with them.

1 2 3 4 5 #47. I try to listen to people, but I am not very good at it.

1 2 3 4 5 #48. In Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan, I would probably be like the priest who walked on by.

1 2 3 4 5 #49. In Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan, I find it difficult to imagine how anyone could have gone by the man in need.

1 2 3 4 5 #50. I believe I must show others that I am worthy of their trust.

1 2 3 4 5 #51. I find it difficult to relate to new people.

1 2 3 4 5 #52. Honestly, I would describe myself as a loner.

1 2 3 4 5 #53. I don't think you can help people much if they don't know and trust you.

1 2 3 4 5 #54. People who know me best know I am a shy person.

1 2 3 4 5 #55. I spend time getting to know people.

1 2 3 4 5 #56. I am usually able to stay calm when I am under pressure.

1 This statement does not describe me well at all.

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3 This statement more or less describes me.

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1 2 3 4 5 #57. I am able to handle stressful relationships.

1 2 3 4 5 #58. I like the fact that people are so unique.

1 2 3 4 5 #59. I am sensitive to people who are under stress.

1 2 3 4 5 #60. I like helping people improve themselves.

1 2 3 4 5 #61. I often ask people, "How can I help you?"

1 2 3 4 5 #62. When I am listening to someone's description of a problem, I often interrupt them to make sure I really understand.

1 2 3 4 5 #63. When I am listening to someone's description of a problem, I often interrupt them to tell them what I think they should do.

1 2 3 4 5 #64. My interest in people depends on their response to me.

1 2 3 4 5 #65. I like people for who they are.

1 2 3 4 5 #66. I care most for those people who can do things I like.

1 2 3 4 5 #67. I find it difficult to show people that I care.

1 2 3 4 5 #68. I think it is important to show people that you really care about their needs.

1 2 3 4 5 #69. I like to help people feel good about themselves.

1 2 3 4 5 #70. I find ways to brag on people.

1 2 3 4 5 #71. I really enjoy meeting new people.

1 2 3 4 5 #72. I am not very assertive.

1 2 3 4 5 #73. I usually have the courage to say what I believe even when mine isn't the popular view.

1 2 3 4 5 #74. I have trouble standing up for my convictions.

1 2 3 4 5 #75. When I am trying to convince someone about something, I am usually able to change my approach to fit the situation.

1 2 3 4 5 #76. I take strong stands on important issues.

1 2 3 4 5 #77. I enjoy the challenge of convincing someone to change their mind.

1 2 3 4 5 #78. It is important to me that people would see things my way.

1 2 3 4 5 #79. I need to be more tactful.

1 2 3 4 5 #80. I like to have strong, talented people around me.

1 2 3 4 5 #81. I know I need friends who will tell me the truth even when I don't like to hear it.

1 2 3 4 5 #82. I like to appear stronger than the people around me.

5 Think now about your relationship with the church. How well do the following statements describe you?

1 This statement does not describe me well at all.

2 This statement does not describe me well.

3 This statement more or less describes me.

4 This statement describes me well.

5 This statement describes me very well.

- 1 2 3 4 5 #83. I am a loyal member of the Church of the Nazarene (or my denomination).
- 1 2 3 4 5 #84. During the last year I have been very faithful in my church attendance.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #85. It is important to me that people can see evidence of the holy life in me.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #86. People tell me they are attracted to Christ because they see faith at work in my life.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #87. I think the Church of the Nazarene (or my denomination) has an important mission.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #88. I am happy to be part of the Church of the Nazarene (or my denomination).
- 1 2 3 4 5 #89. I have a hard time living a Christian life.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #90. The people around me know what I believe.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #91. The people around me know my convictions.

6 Finally, please think about your personal goals. How well do the following statements describe you?

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2 This statement does not describe me well.

3 This statement more or less describes me.

4 This statement describes me well.

5 This statement describes me very well.

- 1 2 3 4 5 #92. Whatever the future holds, I think bringing Christ to others will be important for me.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #93. I like to set new records.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #94. I want to be recognized as a very successful person.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #95. I want to be the best in my field.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #96. I am very goal-oriented.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #97. I do not like to set goals.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #98. I like to take risks in order to reach worthy goals.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #99. It is important to invest in future goals.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #100. Sound financial policies are very important to the success of organizations.

We pray this exercise has helped you think about the ways God has equipped and used you. It will be important to discuss the results of this survey with a Christian leader. Therefore, we encourage you to send this survey to the district office for analysis. One of the ministry leaders on your district will make an appointment to meet with you soon.

Lesson 2: The Persons Involved in Christian Ministry

Due this Lesson

Word Origins
Prophet-preacher paper
Sermon critique
Journaling

Learner Objectives

At the end of this lesson, participants will

- describe the roles and relationships of the Holy Spirit, the church, the minister, and the congregation in ministry
- recognize a call to ministry from the Holy Spirit, and understand the significance of his or her role as a messenger of the Lord
- accept the servant role of a minister to a people as exemplified by Jesus Christ

Homework Assignments

Write a three-page report on the variety and flexibility of preaching situations and methods in the ministry of the apostle Paul, and that of John Wesley, and that of yourself.

Write in your journal. Include:

- comments on a life-changing situation that resulted from your obedience to the word of God
 - reflections on the times, places, and circumstances in which you heard and responded in faith to the gospel
-

The Lord Who Spoke the Word

The Creating Word

The Lord spoke the word of creation.

The Creating Word is identified in the New Testament as Jesus Christ.

The Redeeming Word

The Lord spoke the word of redemption.

The Word of redemption, too, is Jesus Christ.

The Minister Who Has Heard the Word

The Speaking Lord Chooses His Messengers

The prophets' call to preach

The apostles' call to preach

The Lord Calls, the Church Confirms

The Messenger is His or Her Own First Audience

The preacher must be a doer before he or she is a speaker.

The high cost of obedience will not justify disobedience.

The Minister Who Has Heard the Word

Small Group Activity

Divide into groups of three and discuss the questions below. Choose someone to be your recorder/spokesperson. In 15 minutes the spokesperson will report the results of your discussion to the whole group.

What are the constants and the variables of a call to preach?

What is the pastor's role when a member of his or her church is called to preach?

The Persons Who Hear the Word through the Minister

The Preacher Exists for the People

The example of Moses

The example of Isaiah

The example of Jeremiah

Jesus, the Sent One and the Sending One

Jesus was the Sent One.

Jesus is the Sending One.

The Preacher is Sent and Spent for Others

The word-bearers of God are a light for all nations.

The Good Shepherd seeks other sheep through His messengers.

Preaching Mediates Divine Encounter

The preaching encounter with others is sometimes initiated by the preacher.

The preaching encounter with others is sometimes initiated by the listeners.

The preaching encounter with others is sometimes initiated by circumstances.

The preaching encounter with others is sometimes initiated by custom.

However initiated, the preaching situation fulfills the purpose of God, to send His saving word to an ever-enlarging circle of listeners.

Lesson 3: The Knowledge Required for Christian Ministry

Due this Lesson

Preaching situations report
Journaling

Learner Objectives

At the end of this lesson, participants will

- begin describing his or her identity in relation to God, ministry, and other people
- objectively assess personal strengths and weaknesses for building and maintaining ministry roles and relationships
- nurture a lifelong desire to know God more intimately

Homework Assignments

Identify some of the choicest Christians you have known; list the traits observed in those human lives that convince you of corresponding qualities in God.

Complete Resource 3-6, an assessment of your character and behavior. Obtain from your parents, spouse, or best friend Resource 1-5, their assessment of you. Compare the two for agreement and disagreement, admissions and omissions. Write a two-page report.

Do a comparison of the vocabulary Jesus used in His teaching with that used by the apostle Paul. What do the differences suggest about the communicators, about their audiences, and about the settings in which they address people? Write a three-page report.

Write in your journal. Use these questions as idea-starters.

- Consider some of the famous "portraits" of Jesus from great artists. How have they helped or hindered your understanding of Him?
 - How did you feel about the assessment that you did about yourself? How did you feel about your parent's, spouse's, or best friend's assessment?
-

Knowing Your God

The Place to Begin

The place to begin knowing God is His self-disclosure in Jesus Christ.

Knowing God means, first of all, knowing Him as a sinner knows the Savior.

To know God as He is revealed in Jesus Christ requires knowing God as He is revealed in Holy Scripture.

Other Venues of Revelation and Knowledge

He has revealed himself in our human environment, in what we call "Nature."

The believer views nature through the lens of Scripture.

God is also revealed, in some measure, in human experience.

Knowing Your God

Small Group Activity

Divide into groups of three and discuss the questions below. Choose someone to be your recorder/spokesperson. In 20 minutes the spokesperson will report the results of your discussion to the whole group.

How do you answer the person who says, "I don't need to go to church. I can commune with God in nature at the lakeside or in the mountains?"

Granted that God was revealed in Jesus Christ, how can we fellowship with Him when He is a figure in past history not accessible to our sensory world today?

Can a person know the Bible without knowing Christ?

Knowing Your Self

Identify Yourself

John identified himself in relation to the Lord.

John identified himself in relation to the Scriptures.

John identified himself in relation to his ministry.

Examine Yourself

Make sure your loyalty to Christ is the supreme loyalty of your life.

Make sure your loyalty to Scripture is the defining quality of your preaching.

Make sure loyalty to the spiritual needs of those who hear you governs your relationships with them and your behavior toward them.

Develop Yourself

Improve yourself through spiritual training.

Improve yourself through family involvement.

Improve yourself by recognizing your capabilities and limitations.

Improve yourself by assessing your strengths and weaknesses.

Knowing Your People

Get Acquainted or Be Defeated

To serve people well we must know them well.

Ignorance of the target is a waste of arrows.

Rich dividends require costly investments.

Involvement versus Isolation

Distant preachers speak to deaf audiences.

Christ shows us how to get acquainted with people.

Knowing Your People

Small Group Activity

Divide into groups of three and discuss the questions below. Choose someone to be your recorder/spokesperson. In 20 minutes the spokesperson will report the results of your discussion to the whole group.

How does knowing people better help a minister to communicate the gospel more effectively?

What are some dangers of being with the people too much?

Select a Gospel and report to the class on the variety of people who approached Jesus and the variety of approaches He used to engage them with the truth.

NAZARENE MINISTRY STRENGTHS & GIFTS SURVEY

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Christians earnestly seek to understand God's will for their lives. Young Christians especially often find it difficult to know God's direction for their vocation. The gifts and talents God has given us can be one good indication of God's will. This survey is designed to help you think about the ways God has equipped and used you.

For each of the following statements please circle the number at the left which best represents your reaction to the statement. As the headings indicate, you will circle "5" if the statement describes you very well, or "1" if the statement does not describe you well at all, or whichever other number best fits.

1 In the first section, please think about times when you have been part of a group responsible for some task or activity. If you have not actually experienced something addressed in a statement, please answer as you think you would act or be in that situation.

1 This statement does not describe me well at all.

2 This statement does not describe me well.

3 This statement more or less describes me.

4 This statement describes me well.

5 This statement describes me very well.

- 1 2 3 4 5 #1. I am able to help other people understand where we are going.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #2. I have joined school groups because they supported values I hold as a Christian.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #3. When I talk to groups, my message is usually full of hope.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #4. When I am in charge, I like to make the important decisions on my own.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #5. When I lead a group, I like to involve the group in making important decisions together.
- 1 2 3 4 & #6. I have trouble convincing group members to work together as a team.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #7. I like to talk to groups about good things that are possible in their future.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #8. When I choose leaders for a group, I am probably more comfortable with people who tell me what I want to hear.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #9. When I am responsible for a group, I want people around me with strong moral qualities.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #10. When I choose leaders for a group, I want people who can really make a difference.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #11. I find ways to strengthen relationships with the people who work with me.

2 Now please think about times when you have been responsible for some task or activity. How well does each of the following statements describe you'?

1 This statement does not describe me well at all.

2 This statement does not describe me well.

3 This statement more or less describes me.

4 This statement describes me well.

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- 1 2 3 4 5 #12. When I am trying to get something done, I often get distracted.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #13. I usually deal with interruptions quickly and return to my task.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #14. When I am responsible for doing something, I usually can focus on doing the things that really matter.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #15. When I am responsible for doing something, I find it difficult to eliminate distractions.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #16. When I am responsible for doing something, I can quickly eliminate most interruptions.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #17. I have trouble sticking with decisions about how to do things.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #18. I find it easy to set good goals.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #19. I am a good storyteller.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #20. I like to create celebrations.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #21. I have very little imagination for creating a good party.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #22. I can usually figure out how to get things done.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #23. When I am responsible for getting something done, I am pretty good at organizing the necessary equipment.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #24. When I am responsible for getting something done, I am pretty good at planning.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #25. In worship situations, I am uncomfortable trying to lead people for whom I have responsibility.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #26. When I am responsible for a meeting, I have a great need to control things.

3 Now please think about your personal characteristics. How well do the following statements describe you?

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- 1 2 3 4 5 #29. I seem to concentrate better than most people.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #30. I am often frustrated by a weak self-concept.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #31. I am often frustrated by my weaknesses.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #32. I know the areas in which I have special talents.

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- 1 2 3 4 5 #35. Looking back, I would say I usually do not have the willpower to accomplish great things.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #36. I am generally an optimistic person.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #37. I wish we could go back to the "good old days."
- 1 2 3 4 5 #38. I find satisfaction in organizing things.

4 *Think now about your relationships with other people. How well do the following statements describe you?*

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- 1 2 3 4 5 #42. Even when I recognize that someone is in pain, I find it difficult to know how to help them.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #43. People tell me they can see I really care about their pain.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #44. When I see someone who needs compassion, I usually try to help them.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #45. I think I understand people because I really listen to them.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #46. When I am with someone who is suffering, I suffer along with them.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #47. I try to listen to people, but I am not very good at it.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #48. In Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan, I would probably be like the priest who walked on by.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #49. In Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan, I find it difficult to imagine how anyone could have gone by the man in need.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #50. I believe I must show others that I am worthy of their trust.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #51. I find it difficult to relate to new people.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #52. Honestly, I would describe myself as a loner.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #53. I don't think you can help people much if they don't know and trust you.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #54. People who know me best know I am a shy person.
- 1 2 3 4 5 #55. I spend time getting to know people.
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1 2 3 4 5 #61. I often ask people, "How can I help you?"

1 2 3 4 5 #62. When I am listening to someone's description of a problem, I often interrupt them to make sure I really understand.

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1 2 3 4 5 #71. I really enjoy meeting new people.

1 2 3 4 5 #72. I am not very assertive.

1 2 3 4 5 #73. I usually have the courage to say what I believe even when mine isn't the popular view.

1 2 3 4 5 #74. I have trouble standing up for my convictions.

1 2 3 4 5 #75. When I am trying to convince someone about something, I am usually able to change my approach to fit the situation.

1 2 3 4 5 #76. I take strong stands on important issues.

1 2 3 4 5 #77. I enjoy the challenge of convincing someone to change their mind.

1 2 3 4 5 #78. It is important to me that people would see things my way.

1 2 3 4 5 #79. I need to be more tactful.

1 2 3 4 5 #80. I like to have strong, talented people around me.

1 2 3 4 5 #81. I know I need friends who will tell me the truth even when I don't like to hear it.

1 2 3 4 5 #82. I like to appear stronger than the people around me.

5 Think now about your relationship with the church. How well do the following statements describe you?

- 1 This statement does not describe me well at all.**
2 This statement does not describe me well.
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- 1 2 3 4 5 #83. I am a loyal member of the Church of the Nazarene (or my denomination).
1 2 3 4 5 #84. During the last year I have been very faithful in my church attendance.
1 2 3 4 5 #85. It is important to me that people can see evidence of the holy life in me.
1 2 3 4 5 #86. People tell me they are attracted to Christ because they see faith at work in my life.
1 2 3 4 5 #87. I think the Church of the Nazarene (or my denomination) has an important mission.
1 2 3 4 5 #88. I am happy to be part of the Church of the Nazarene (or my denomination).
1 2 3 4 5 #89. I have a hard time living a Christian life.
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1 2 3 4 5 #91. The people around me know my convictions.

6 Finally, please think about your personal goals. How well do the following statements describe you?

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- 1 2 3 4 5 #92. Whatever the future holds, I think bringing Christ to others will be important for me.
1 2 3 4 5 #93. I like to set new records.
1 2 3 4 5 #94. I want to be recognized as a very successful person.
1 2 3 4 5 #95. I want to be the best in my field.
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1 2 3 4 5 #100. Sound financial policies are very important to the success of organizations.

We pray that this exercise has helped you think about the ways God has equipped and used you. It will be important to discuss the results of this survey with a Christian leader. Therefore, we encourage you to send this survey to the district office for analysis. One of the ministry leaders on your district will make an appointment to meet with you soon.

Lesson 4: The Communication Skills Needed for Christian Ministry

Due this Lesson

Christian character traits
Self-assessment
Jesus-Paul comparison
Journaling

Learner Objectives

At the end of this lesson, participants will

- practice the discipline of listening, the first step in communication, in private study, corporate worship, prayer, and conversation with people
- articulate and initiate a personal plan for developing effective speaking skills
- understand the use of persuasion in delivering God's message to the people

Homework Assignments

Research Acts and the Pauline Epistles for times when the Lord spoke to Paul directly, not through the Scriptures. Discuss the settings, the messages, the effects, and their meanings in a three-page report.

Examine the messages of the apostles (Acts 2:14-41; 13:13-48; 17:22-34). Identify the elements of persuasion in them. Also, identify the recorded responses to the messages, and the reaction of the speakers to those responses. Write a three-page report.

Write in your journal. Include your reflections and insights from this lesson and from your reading and study. Begin with the sentence, "I remember how I felt when I was coerced into doing . . ."

Learning to Listen

Listening is a Learned Art

Listening to God has Priority

God speaks in Christ.

God speaks in the Scriptures.

God speaks through preaching.

Our listening to God will occur in private study.

Our listening to God will occur in corporate worship.

Our listening to God will occur in prayer.

Listening to People is Important

We must learn to listen to people as well as to God.

Learning to Listen

Small Group Activity

Divide into groups of three and discuss the questions below. Choose someone to be your recorder/spokesperson. In 20 minutes the spokesperson will report the results of your discussion to the whole group.

Why are most of us much readier to speak than to listen?

Why are many preachers such poor listeners?

Why do preachers often fail to hear God speaking to them in Scripture?

Why do some people claim to hear God telling them to do things that don't square with Scripture?

Learning to Speak

Unique Message, Common Technique

The Greatest of All Subjects

The Clearest of All Language

Preach in the language of the people, not of the study.

Colorful language does not mean artificial eloquence.

The urgency of our message forbids frivolous preaching.

Measure Length by Common Sense, Not by Clocks

One Size Fits All

Whom the Lord Calls He Qualifies

Rejection and Failure are not Synonyms

Learning to Speak

Small Group Activity

Divide into groups of three and discuss the questions below. Choose someone to be your recorder/spokesperson. In 15 minutes the spokesperson will report the results of your discussion to the whole group.

Why are so many people afraid to speak in public?

How can you develop a pleasing and persuasive speaking style?

How do you measure success as a public speaker?

Learning to Persuade

Christ Commands but Doesn't Coerce

Persuasion is the opposite of coercion.

Persuasion respects both God and people.

To Persuade, Preaching Appeals

God appeals through the preacher.

Appeals rejected must be repeated.

Lesson 5: The Common Venues of Christian Ministry

Due this Lesson

Report: Paul Hears God Speak
Report: Acts
Journaling

Learner Objectives

At the end of this lesson, participants will

- describe the significance of the minister being a model worshiper
- identify elements of worship and understand the importance to corporate worship of preaching, administering sacraments, and establishing an attractive setting
- understand the proper role and potential pitfalls for the minister and professional counselor in counseling situations
- articulate administrative responsibilities of the Christian minister
- plan and conduct effective, empowering board and staff meetings

Homework Assignments

Write out an order of service for a Communion Service. Include the songs to be used. Indicate the scriptures to be used—the order and context. Also, indicate how the elements are to be served and who is to help with the distribution.

Interview a senior pastor from a medium to large church concerning their counseling practices. Ask questions about

- kinds of counseling demands the congregation presents (spiritual, family, addictions, financial, etc.)
- what situations he or she refers to professional counselors
- how one-on-one situations of male and female counseling are handled

Write a two-page report.

Prepare an outline for a church board structure—number of persons and committees needed. Prepare a sample agenda for a board meeting.

Write in your journal. Include

- reflections from your baptism
- feelings (fears) about working with a church board
- evaluation of your financial status

The Minister as Worshiper

Preaching the Word

Preaching is bound to Scripture.

Biblical preaching requires diligent study.

Biblical preaching channels divine power.

Every part of a worship service is important.

Administering the Sacraments

A vital part of corporate worship is the Lord's Supper.

The Lord's Supper is recollection, something done "in remembrance" of Him.

The Lord's Supper is anticipation, fueling anew our hope "until He comes" and our salvation is consummated.

The Lord's Supper is proclamation; by it we "proclaim the Lord's death."

Less frequently, but regularly, the minister will be involved in the sacrament of baptism.

Complications may arise in the administration of baptism.

Attractive Settings and Blessed Results

Worship should occur in the most pleasant and attractive settings possible.

The minister inescapably worships as a role model for worshipers.

Indispensable to worship is the presence and power of God.

The Minister as Counselor

Counseling from Scripture

Staying in Control

A wise pastor will control the counseling schedule.

A wise minister will also control the emotional climate.

The counselor must also control his or her tongue.

Refusing to Judge

Rarely, if ever, take sides in a conflict situation.

Rarely, if ever, give direct advice.

Respecting Your Limitations

Being Yourself

Wear your own hat.

Take your own medicine.

The Minister as Administrator

Conducting Board Meetings

Handle boards with loving care.

Conduct board meetings efficiently.

Study your board members.

Make the spiritual growth of the church board a special project.

Conducting Staff Meetings

Delegate authority when work is delegated.

Conduct regular staff meetings in a genial atmosphere.

Make necessary staff changes graciously.

Training Church Leaders

Increasing the doers gets more done.

Leadership training benefits everyone involved.

Training leaders assures mission success.

Financing the Church's Mission

Ministerial leadership is vital for securing adequate finances.

Competent treasurers are needed to handle finances.

Ministers should advise money handlers, not be money handlers.

Publicizing the Church

Use every legitimate means of publicity available.

All publicity projects should be handsomely done.

Carefully choose advertising and advertisers.

The Minister as Administrator

Small Group Activity

Divide into groups of three and discuss the questions below. Choose someone to be your recorder/spokesperson. In 20 minutes the spokesperson will report the results of your discussion to the whole group.

What are the personal qualifications, as distinguished from ministry skills, needed by staff persons in a local church?

Why should staff persons resign when the senior pastor resigns?

Why shouldn't pastors serve also as treasurers of the church?

Evaluate the monthly treasurer's report. What do you see as strengths or weaknesses?

Examine and evaluate the selection of advertisements for various church activities. Which would be models to imitate or avoid?

New Testament Preaching

Preacher	Venues	Messages	Reference
John Baptist	Wilderness	Repentance/ forgiveness	Lk 3:3
	Wilderness	The good news	Lk 3:18
Jesus	Galilee	The kingdom of heaven is near	Mt 4:17
	Galilee	The good news of God	Mk 1:14
	Nazareth: synagogue	Good news to the poor	Lk 4:18
	Galilee: synagogue	The good news of the Kingdom	Mt 9:35
	Galilee: other towns	The good news of the Kingdom of God	Lk 4:43
	Capernaum: house	The word	Mk 2:2
	Jerusalem: temple	The gospel	Lk 20:1
	Ephesus	Peace	Eph 2:17
Disciples	Galilee	People should repent	
	Galilee: villages	The Kingdom of God—the gospel	Lk 9:2, 6
Philip	Samaria	The good news of the Kingdom of God	Acts 8:12
	All the towns	The gospel	Acts 8:40
Peter/John	Samaritan villages	The gospel	Acts 8:25
Paul	Damascus: synagogues	Jesus is the Son of God	Acts 9:20
	Berea	The word of God	Acts 17:13
	Athens	The good news about Jesus	Acts 17:18
	Corinth	Jesus was the Christ	Acts 18:15
	Ephesus	Turn to God...have faith in Jesus	Acts 20:20,21
		The kingdom	Acts 20:25
	All places	Repent and turn to God	Acts 26:20
	Rome	The kingdom of God	Acts 28:31
	Unspecified	The gospel of His Son	Rom 1:9
	Troas	The gospel of Christ	2 Cor 2:12
	Corinth	Foolishness/the message of the Cross	1 Cor 1:21
	Corinth	The gospel	1 Cor 15:1
	Corinth	Jesus Christ as Lord	2 Cor 4:5
	Corinth	Jesus	2 Cor 11:4
	Galatia	The gospel	Gal 4:14
	The Gentiles	The gospel	Gal 2:7
	The Gentiles	The unsearchable riches of Christ	Eph 3:8
Thessalonica	The gospel of God	1 Thess 2:19	
Unspecified	God's word	Titus 1:3	
Paul/Barnabas	Lycaonian cities	The good news	Acts 14:7
	Derbe	The good news	Acts 14:21
	Perga	The word	Acts 14:25
	Antioch	The word of the Lord	Acts 15:35
Paul/Others	Macedonia	The gospel	Acts 16:10
The Apostles	Unspecified	Jesus appointed as judge	Acts 10:42
	Asia Minor	The gospel/The word	1 Pet 1:12,25

Note: Only those references are used where the content of preaching follows the verbs "preach," "preached," and "preaching."

Preaching the Word

Message	Reference	Frequency
The word	Mark 4:33	44 times
The word of God	Acts 4:31	38 times
The word of the Lord	Acts 8:25	10 times
The word of his grace	Acts 20:32	1 time
The word of faith	Romans 10:8	1 time
The word of Christ	Romans 10:17	2 times
The word of truth	Ephesians 1:13	4 times
The word of life	Philippians 2:16	2 times

Note: "Reference" refers to the first time the phrase occurs in relation to preaching. "Frequency" refers to the total occurrences of the phrase in the New Testament, whatever the context.

Preaching the Gospel, New Testament

Message	Reference	Frequency
The gospel	Mark 13:10	76 times
The gospel of God	Romans 15:16	6 times
The gospel of Christ	Romans 15:19	8 times
The gospel of God's grace	Acts 20:24	1 time
The gospel of his son	Romans 1:9	1 time
The gospel of your salvation	Ephesians 1:13	1 time
The eternal gospel	Revelations 14:6	1 time

Note: "Reference" refers to the first time the phrase occurs in relation to the preaching. "Frequency" refers to the total occurrences of the phrase in the NT, whatever the context.

The New Testament refers also to:

The message of the gospel	Acts 15:7
The light of the gospel	2 Cor 4:4
The confession of the gospel	2 Cor 9:13
The truth of the gospel	Gal 2:14
The mystery of the gospel	Eph 6:19

Lesson 6: The Christian Ministry as Servanthood

Due this Lesson

Communion Service Outline
Pastoral Counseling report
Church Board structure and agenda
Journaling

Learner Objectives

At the end of this lesson, participants will

- describe elements of the “servant life” based on the examples of Jesus and the Apostle Paul
- practice the disciplines for sustaining a servant lifestyle
- list reasons why some ministers give up the ministry, and ways to persist in ministry
- accept the servant role of a minister as exemplified by Jesus Christ

Assignments for Continued Study

Engage in a special season of prayer, asking God for a spirit of humility and for the power to serve.

Place yourself in Gideon’s shoes when his army was reduced to 300. Compose an imaginary letter of resignation to God. Go through the letter item by item and supply scriptural reasons for refusing to mail it.

Write in your journal. Include

- your journey with Christ during this module
- your dreams and vision for your ministry
- the struggles you feel in preparing for ministry

The Servant Life

Apostolic Ministry

Paul designated himself a servant of Christ.

Paul designated himself a servant of the gospel.

Paul designated himself a minister of the Church.

The Servant of All

The foot-washing Servant

The meal-cooking Servant

Sustaining the Servant Life

Life Sustained by Prayer

The prayer life of Jesus

The prayer taught by Jesus

Life Governed and Guided by Scripture

The Road and the Light

Scripture: Means to an End

Life Spent and Offered for Others

Following "the man for others"

Spending yourself rich

Sustaining the Servant Life

Small Group Activity

Divide into groups of three and discuss the questions below. Choose someone to be your recorder/spokesperson. In 20 minutes the spokesperson will report the results of your discussion to the whole group.

A number of polls disclose a poverty of prayer among Christians, including ministers. Why do we find it so difficult to pray?

Why is devotional reading of Scripture so frequently neglected?

Why does service, as a devotional exercise, seem strange to us?

Chart the prayer life of Jesus through one of the Gospels.

Find the prayers of the apostles mentioned in Acts. Which prayer has the biggest impact on you personally?

Persevering in the Servant Life

An Exhortation to Persistence

Some ministers give up because opposition is unrelenting.

Some ministers give up because their strength is depleted.

Some ministers give up because people are ungrateful.

Some ministers give up because results are meager.

An Example of Persistence

The minister's goal lies beyond the service one renders.