

# Facilitator Study Guide

# Christian Leader Training

## Facilitator Study Guide

*This training program is intended to prepare everyday Christians who feel a call from God to be pastors or church planters. It is also intended to prepare those who desire to be and do all that God desires of them in leading and ministering within their local church and community (e.g., deacons, Sunday School teachers, etc.).*

This training focuses on three broad areas:

- Doctrine
- The Church
- Practical Matters

It is designed to be completed in three terms of six weeks each. The three terms should not be spaced over more than an 18-month period.

Each term consists of six classes of about two to three hours each, at weekly intervals. During each term, two weeks will be devoted to each of the three broad study areas noted above. Upon completion of the three terms, a Christian Leader Diploma will be issued to each student. Contact your regional SBC of Virginia church planting strategist for a template if you choose to not develop your own.

This training is intended to give a broadly based orientation to pastoral ministry and will need to be followed by other more detailed training and mentoring. Early subjects for further training would include courses on effective communication, New Testament survey, Old Testament survey, pastoring, church planting, and so forth. Some students may wish to go on to complete a seminary extension degree. Others may desire specific training. In any

case, each student should enlist a spiritually mature mentor and be given an opportunity to further develop their gifts and experience in serving the Lord. This course is specifically designed for men, believing that God has chosen to use men in pastoral leadership. However, with the exception of the unit on preaching, wives could and should participate fully with their husbands in this course, to the extent possible and desired.

For each week of training, students will be assigned some reading to complete. Students will also have a study guide to complete. The study guide includes questions to firm up the information covered in the assigned reading and to cause students to think about and make personal application of the issues covered. It is expected that students will come to each class having completed the reading and the study guide questions and assignments. The class time will be devoted to the discussion of key issues and questions related to the assignment. Students should come prepared as though they could lead the class through this discussion. It is vital that students attend every class session. If a student cannot or will not make this commitment, there is no value for him to go further.

**Following is an outline of the subjects that are covered:**

|        |         |   |
|--------|---------|---|
| Term 1 | Week 1  | > Doctrine - Introduction<br>Doctrines - The Scriptures   |
|        | Week 2  | > Doctrine - God the Father<br>Doctrines - God the Son<br>Doctrines - God the Holy Spirit   |
|        | Week 3  | > The Church - Definition, foundation, and mission<br>The Church - Organization, structure, officers, and leaders   |
|        | Week 4  | > The Church - Members<br>The Church - Discipline of members  |
|        | Week 5  | > Practical Matters - Personal devotions<br>Practical Matters - Sermon preparation and delivery   |
|        | Week 6  | > Practical Matters - Leading worship<br>Practical matters - Preparing for and leading Bible studies  |
| Term 2 | Week 7  | > Doctrines - Man<br>Doctrines - Salvation<br>Doctrines - God's purpose of grace  |
|        | Week 8  | > Doctrines - Baptism<br>Doctrines - The Lord's Supper<br>Doctrines - The Lord's Day<br>Doctrines - The Kingdom<br>Doctrines - Last things  |
|        | Week 9  | > The Church - The pastor's role<br>The Church - Pastoral leadership styles   |
|        | Week 10 | > The Church - Pastoral care<br>The Church - Decision making and the business meeting   |
|        | Week 11 | > Practical Matters - Finding prospects<br>Practical Matters - Cultivating prospects  |
|        | Week 12 | > Practical Matters - Presenting the gospel<br>Practical Matters - Decision counseling<br>Practical Matters - Disciple making   |
| Term 3 | Week 13 | > Doctrines - Evangelism<br>Doctrines - Stewardship   |
|        | Week 14 | > Doctrines - The Christian and the social order<br>Doctrines - Peace and war<br>Doctrines - Religious liberty  |
|        | Week 15 | > The Church - Cooperation<br>The Church - SBC organization and the Cooperative Program   |
|        | Week 16 | > The Church - SBC agencies, boards, institutions, and commissions  |
|        | Week 17 | > Practical Matters - Weddings<br>Practical Matters - Funerals  |
|        | Week 18 | > Practical Matters - Conducting baptisms<br>Practical Matters - Celebration of the Lord's Supper<br>Practical Matters - Calendaring for the church<br>Practical Matters - Your personal library<br>Practical Matters - Your family |

From the list of subjects, you can see that this training is rather comprehensive. Complete it with a serious effort, learn from your instructor and the other students, and contribute to the group's learning experience. Some of you may already be familiar with much of this material, but you can seek a deeper understanding and make a major contribution to other students in the class. At the conclusion of this training, you should be ready and able to take on major tasks the Lord gives you and to complete them with confidence. Many who have covered this ground before you are now serving very productively as pastors, church planters, and leaders within their local churches. May God richly bless you as you make this exciting journey with Him!



