



# DISCIPLESHIP EQUIPPING CLASSES

·Find Your Place In God's Story·

## DISCIPLESHIP EQUIPPING CLASSES OVERVIEW

Citylight classes are part of a church-wide discipleship initiative that focuses participants on the Bible. The class curriculum seeks to equip believers in three areas of discipleship—Christian story, Christian belief and Christian formation. During these classes, we'll spend a significant amount of time in Scripture examining the God who came to establish His kingdom. We will also study the doctrines believers have held throughout the history of the church and we will consider together how our participation in the Christian story invites us into a life of worship and mission. By weaving together these three elements into a holistic approach to discipleship, men and women have opportunity to grow in their love for God, Scripture and His mission. Classes meet once a week over a three-month period and class sessions are comprised of lecture, discussion, and formation exercises.

### **CHRISTIAN STORY (Biblical Theology)**

One of the most fundamental and important claims in Christian theology is that God has made Himself known in Scripture. We will spend time working through major historical-redemptive events in salvation history in order to come to a greater understanding of who God is and what He has done to reconcile the world to Himself in the person and work of Jesus Christ. Additionally, we will compare how the Christian story is fundamentally different from any other story our culture tells and we will consider how disciples of Jesus are called to live within the Christian story.

### **CHRISTIAN FORMATION (Spiritual Formation)**

A major component of this class considers how Christian Story and Christian Belief function to shape and form us into the kind of people who live in the world according to the way of Jesus Christ. Using these classes as a tool, we hope to form people into servants, worshipers, members, and disciple-makers who are fluent in the gospel.

## **CHRISTIAN BELIEF (Systematic Theology)**

Understanding the redemptive story leads to doctrinal beliefs (what we hold as truth). As the curriculum moves through the Bible, significant time will be spent teaching and articulating the major doctrines of the Christian faith and we will see that doctrine, insofar as it is rooted in the Christian Story, is foundational for all disciples of Jesus Christ.

### **GOALS**

Class students will be encouraged to formulate and develop their thinking about Christian Story, Christian Belief, and Christian Formation through lectures, small group discussions, reading and formation exercises. The classes aim to help each student meet the following goals throughout the course. Each student will:

- **Be developed as a Worshiper**
  - Gain an overview and understanding of the Bible through major biblical events and covenantal history.
  - Gain an overview and understanding of Christian doctrine.
  - Recognize that they are not merely consumers of theology, but as disciples of Jesus, they are producers of theology.
  - Become familiar with the key biblical passages relating to biblical events, covenants, and major Christian doctrine.
  
- **Be developed as a Member**
  - Gain an appreciation for the task of discipleship and theology in the context of the local church.
  - Grow in Godliness and in the likeness of Jesus Christ
  - Equipped in the rhythms of the gathered and scattered church within the context of City Groups.
  
- **Be developed as a Servant**
  - Be commissioned into the church and the world in order to serve the church and culture through making disciples.
  
- **Be developed as a Disciple Maker**
  - Become aware of how biblical and systematic theology function to shape and form their spiritual lives.
  - Gain an appreciation for the multiplicative and missional dimensions of Christian discipleship.
  - Learn how to communicate and articulate biblical and theological truths to others.

## **BASIC SCHEDULE**

### Christian Story Class

- Where: West: Student Center; Midtown: East Room
- When: Sunday, 09/12-11/21 || 11:00am-12:10pm

## **REQUIREMENTS:**

### CHARITY:

"...the greatest of these is love" (1 Corinthians 13:13). Disciples of Jesus are called to be marked by their love for God and their love for neighbor. Class participants are going to be called to make progress in their walk with Christ, and to also demonstrate a posture of love towards God and one another. Discipleship is never an individual task, but by definition is community oriented. While communal discipleship presents many challenges, it also presents many opportunities for us to be charitable with one another. A charitable and loving spirit is required of all class participants.

### PARTICIPATION & ATTENDANCE:

Because you hold a spot in this class, someone else does not. Please do your best to honor that with your regular attendance. We know that life is unpredictable. Some weeks you may not be able to complete the reading assignment, or you may have an unexpected reason to miss. That's okay. Do your best to come prepared and to keep your absences to a minimum. Additionally, one of the primary goals of the Discipleship Equipping Program is to encourage and instigate thoughtful participation in lectures, discussions, and assignments. The more you are willing to participate and be vulnerable through discussion and exercises the more you will benefit from the classes.

We will start on time!

### CLASS DISCUSSION:

Class lectures will regularly pause for the purpose of class led discussion. Sometimes these discussions will be organized and other times you will be asked to sustain theological conversation on your own.

### READING:

Class participants will read one additional book over the course of the training in addition to regular Scripture reading. Students are encouraged to keep up with the weekly reading schedule.