

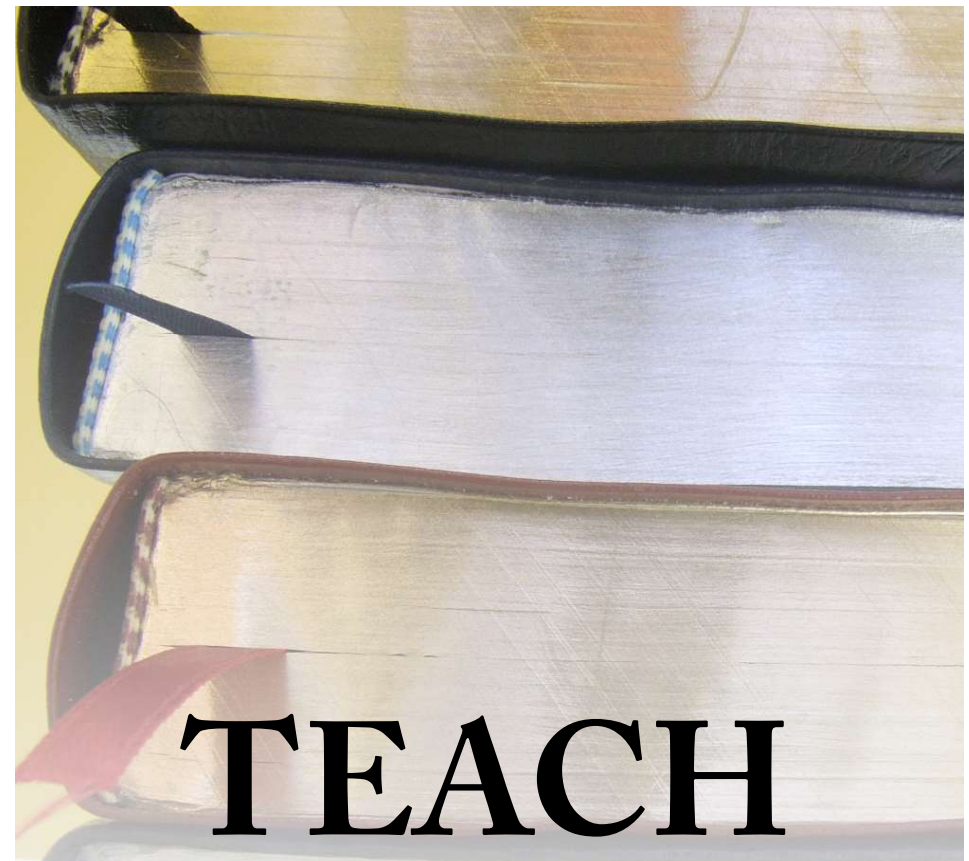
The Great Commission Missionary Institute

The Great Commission Missionary Institute is a practical instrument of Baptist associations, fellowships or churches to enlist and train large numbers of dedicated Christian workers to disciple and evangelize the unchurched people of their community and to open new work in unchurched communities.

Required Courses	Classes	Hours
Missions	<i>The Great Commission Is Personal</i>	6
Personal Ministry	<i>Your Little Flock Ministry</i>	6
Disciple Making	<i>Teach to Save Lives</i>	8
Discipleship	<i>First Steps in Christian Discipleship</i>	8
Church Planting, Growth	<i>The Church on the March</i>	9
Spiritual Basis of Ministry	<i>Spiritual Power</i>	6
Pastoral Leadership	<i>The Pastor God Uses</i>	6
Pastoral Ministry	<i>Pastoral Ministries in the Church*</i>	6
Biblical Homiletics	<i>Preach the Word</i>	10
Biblical Homiletics	<i>Dramatic Preaching, Stories of the Bible</i>	12
Christian Doctrine	<i>Doctrines of the Bible*</i>	12
Family	<i>Ministry to Families*</i>	9
Christian Leadership	<i>Dynamic Spiritual Leadership</i>	6
Christian Stewardship	<i>Your Prosperity Pleases God</i>	6
Elective Courses	(Listed separately)	12
	Total hours:	120

Certificates Offered

Certificate of Study First 60 hours
 Diploma of Missionary Preparation Final 60 hours



TEACH to Save Lives

A Basic Missionary Training Textbook

GREAT COMMISSION MISSIONARY INSTITUTE



"Every Community on Earth Deserves a New Testament Church"



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Church Starts International
P.O. Box 177, Henrietta, TX 76365
billdavis@churchstarts.com
www.churchstarts.com

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Teach to Save Lives

Before they called Jesus “Savior,” they called him “Teacher.” What we must understand is that to teach and to save are two inseparable parts of the same action. After Christ died for our sins and for those of all other sinners, he commanded us not to die for sinners but to go out and teach them. The only way his death could save anyone would be for them to know they are sinners, that he died for them, and that they must turn from their sins and trust him completely for forgiveness. Doing this, they become a part of his people. For this reason, his very last command on earth was for us to go out into the lost world and “make disciples,” baptizing them and training them to do everything he commanded. To make a disciple is to teach people about Christ, trust him as Lord and Savior and follow him for now and eternity.

Christ’s obedience to die on the cross was essential for man’s salvation. Our obedience is fully as important as his, because if we fail to obey him, he will have died in vain for those whom we could have otherwise taught, won and trained.

The powerful movements of mankind, bad and good, are all built upon teaching. Hitler caused the death of many millions of people by teaching the German people it was their destiny to conquer the world. Today, great numbers of religious “martyrs” blow apart their bodies and kill and maim many others to glorify God, according to the teachers who inspire their actions. On our own streets walk false prophets, leading people away from the gospel to the false hope of their religions. They do their deadly work by teaching wherever people will listen to them. Teaching others is the battlefield for souls, be they for God or for Satan. Christians who do not recognize the life-giving importance of making Christian disciples of the lost are both blind and tragically ignorant.

Comments: Why is “teaching” called the battlefield for souls?

The truest mark of Christian faithfulness is not church attendance, as important as that is, but going out into the world, demonstrating love for all, obedience to God, and making disciples for Christ. In doing this, we partner with him in the work of redemption. **“As my Father has sent me, even so send I you,”** he said. John 20:21 He went out, taught his disciples and died for our salvation. We must also go out, teach and live for God as the glorious fulfillment of our salvation. This is nobility of the highest order because we are sent to participate with the Son of God in the salvation of multitudes. In doing this, we join the column of Christ’s victorious witnesses, starting with the Apostles and now extending to the courageous missionaries out in the farthest fringes of spiritual darkness.

Jesus, and the Apostles after him, went out into the world to disciple men and women who were lost. As these people came to understand the message and how it personally affected them, they surrendered their lives to Christ and were transformed by an act Jesus calls “to be born again.” Genuine new birth usually comes after a period of gestation, in which one is spiritually prepared for birth. For this reason, disciple-making in the New Testament starts by teaching people who are not yet Christians. Today, “discipleship” popularly means teaching immature Christians, not lost people. Evangelism, today, tends to be hurried and people are expected to be saved in the 20 minutes it requires to show them how to be saved. This assumes they are spiritually ready to be saved. It should not surprise us that the great majority of people who “make decisions” for Christ in just a few minutes never demonstrate newness of life afterwards. That is due to a call for belief in Jesus without repentance, or turning from the sin that separates them from God. Jesus said, **“Unless you repent, you too will all perish.”** Luke 3:5. Peter preached, **“Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out...”** Acts 3:19. Paul told the elders of the Ephesian church, **“I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus.”** Acts 20:21 Peter wrote The Lord... **“is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”** 2 Peter 3:9.

Opinions: How do you understand these statements about repentance?

- Only the worst sinners need to repent to be saved.
- The one alternative to repenting, turning from sin, is to perish.
- All the Bible asks is that we “let Jesus come into our hearts.”
- A decision to receive Christ is a moral decision to turn from sin to His rule.
- It is easier to ask people “to believe” than “to repent.”
- Any plan of salvation that leaves out repentance is tragically inadequate.
- If repentance is required for salvation, we need to tell this to the people.
- It will probably take more than 20 minutes to lead people to turn away from their sins and receive Christ as Lord and Savior.

Many experienced Christian workers, on reading these Scriptures, will begin to sense the spiritual weakness of many of our traditional evangelistic appeals. We sense that many church members were never truly converted, and this is the most obvious reason why.

Seeing that repentance is a spiritual requirement for salvation, we are brought back to Jesus’ evangelistic strategy. It is more demanding than most modern strategies, but it brings much greater and permanent results. His last commandment to us was (paraphrased) **“Go out and make disciples of people everywhere, baptizing them... and training them to obey everything I have told you to do.”** Matthew 28:19-20



Opinions: What do you understand about the Great Commission?

- It is a command given to all Christians, and not just the Apostles.
- It requires our going out into the lost world and teaching the gospel.
- Its goal is that many will “make professions of faith.”
- Its first goal is that every true believer be publicly baptized.
- Its second goal is that we train all believers to obey Jesus in everything.
- This, like much of Jesus’ teaching, asks too much of us—it is not practical.
- Jesus’ strategy works in transforming lives, men’s strategies fail.

To be a gospel teacher is to follow the example of Jesus Christ who walked out into the world calling on men and women to repent and believe, because God’s Kingdom has come. Matthew 4:17 Before faith and repentance, people are subjects of the Reign of Darkness with the sentence of eternal death hanging over their heads. John 3:36, To renounce sin and self and submit to Christ as both Lord and Savior is to enter, by God’s grace, into the Kingdom of his dear Son. ***For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*** Colossians 1:13, 14 A mere acceptance of even the most complete Evangelical creed will not suffice. We seek nothing short of Spiritual rebirth and inspired entry into the Family of God as his fully converted sons and daughters. John 3:3 This comes from careful disciple-making of the lost people in the world. That is our sacred mission and that is our personal job. Matthew 28:18-20.

Comments: How do we become participants with Christ for the salvation of multitudes? What is our greatest goal in teaching the lost?

You Now Enter Practical Missionary Training

With this study, you enter into a 20-hour course of Missionary Certification. The other two studies for certification are **The Great Commission Is Personal** and **Your Little Flock Ministry**. You may take this study simultaneously with them. This is because while they give you the Biblical and practical aspects of your new missionary service, this study will give you practical experience as you and the other students practice teach one another.

You are about to be trained to teach both the lost and the saved through “interactive” teaching. It is teaching in which the teacher leads the students to discover for themselves the deepest Bible truths, rather than simply telling them these truths. People don’t pay as much attention to what others tell them as what they personally

decide is the truth and tell it with their own mouth. The power of interactive Bible studies is the ability to involve the lost students, and Christians also, in the studies. Your teacher will now demonstrate this and then let you, who are students, practice it on one another. When you go out into the world, your non-Christian students should, in the same way, take turns reading each lesson aloud, part by part. Always remind the students that they should find their answer in the Bible verse rather than to express their personal opinions. The Bible is the authority in the class and not the teacher or the students.

Common errors are for the teacher to do the reading instead of the students and for the teacher to start off by giving his or her own opinions. This may be more interesting for the teacher, but not for the students. Instead, the wise teacher uses questions to lead the students to discover the truth for themselves in the Bible verses given. As the students answer correctly the questions, warmly congratulate them on their success in understanding the Bible. This increases their joy and sense of accomplishment, and fixes the spiritual truths more firmly in their hearts.

Comments: What two errors should be avoiding in teaching these lessons to others?

The teacher will demonstrate-teach a given disciple-making tool with two or three chosen students as “actors” for no more than ten minutes. The group is then divided into pairs of students. The instructor asks the students to continue to study the lesson at hand. One student will teach the other for ten minutes and the other will then teach the first for the final ten minutes. The instructor should observe the different pairs of students to see how well the students have learned the principles of teaching. The next week, he can point out possible improvements to the teaching method.

Instructions for the remaining studies and practice teaching:

The following section in this booklet has five short articles. One article can be used each week and the greater amount of class time should be spent in practice teaching, using the selected disciple-making materials. Briefly, in every class period, the teacher demonstrates how the materials should be taught, and gives most of the time for the students to teach the different materials to one another. Almost immediately, the students should also start teaching these materials to friends in the family and the world, beginning their missionary ministry in a practical way, reporting this weekly in the class. This is the best way to learn to teach the lessons.



Practice Teaching in Class

Most of your next class periods dedicated to this course should be used in practice teaching, as described above. Please practice teach the following lessons:

People Who Knew Jesus	Lessons 1, 2 and 5
Faith Power	Lessons 1 and 2
First Steps In Christian Discipleship	Lessons 1 and 2
Courtship & a Happy Marriage	Lesson 3

Five Vital Questions About Your Disciple-Making Ministry

1. How Will You Invite Disciples?

When you mention Bible study, many people will assume that it will be a dull experience in which you will try to tell them what to believe. Do not be surprised that some people are literally afraid to study the Bible with you! For this reason, it is best to offer to study about a given subject like overcoming stress, learning how to have a happier family, or to be more popular. The discussion will come from a Bible story and they will immediately see that it is their opinion that matters, not yours.

To many people, the word “study” has no appeal and even more so if it is “Bible study.” It is wise to invite the person or persons to “look at just one Bible story.” If they like it, more can be enjoyed later. In most cases, they will like it and you have won your first disciples. You can invite the people to multiple activities that include Bible stories. Children will enjoy games, handicrafts, songs, puppets, etc., and talking about a Bible story is enjoyable for them. Adults can enjoy “ice-breakers,” refreshments and conversation, followed by an interesting life-guiding Bible story.

You will find some people—for example, lost people who visit your church services—who are ready to study the gospel itself. With them, you can go to their homes and teach them the evangelistic studies offered by the Church on the March. You will see most of them quickly coming to Christ. Their coming to church shows you that God is already working in their hearts. Others are not ready for evangelistic Bible studies. But after they discover the Bible through the life-issue stories, they will study the evangelistic Bible stories with no fear and with growing faith.

Opinions: Class members should share ideas of how they might best invite others to study with them. Help one another with your ideas.

2. Whom Will You Disciple?

Matthew writes his own story. He says, ***As Jesus walked along, he saw a tax collector, named Matthew sitting in his office. He said to him, “Follow me.” Matthew got up and followed him.*** Matthew 9:9

Jesus was almost always looking for people he could call to follow him. There was a great crowd around him, but he saw one particular man and invited him to follow. That man was Matthew himself. Matthew was not saved in that moment. But he became his disciple, his student, from that moment on. Did everyone Jesus call follow him? No, not at all. One example is the rich young ruler, who when he thought about the sacrifice it would be to follow Jesus, decided to turn his back and walk away. Jesus said, ***Many are called, but few are chosen.*** (Matthew 20:16) This was true for Jesus’ ministry and it will be true for yours as well. Like Jesus, while you might want to be able to teach everyone about God and his salvation, many will be untouched and not accept the opportunity, at least, at the first invitation to do so. The good news is that some will give you an opportunity. They are the ones you are really looking for. Do not force your effort on those who are uninterested, but constantly “test the waters” to see whom God’s Spirit is already touching.

As Jesus looked at Matthew, he undoubtedly sensed Matthew’s great spiritual hunger and need for his friendship. As you walk through life, you, likewise, will see people who seem to feel a need for what you can give them. They will happily let you come into their lives, and others, perhaps surprising you, will not. The only way you will know is by inviting them and leave the answer up to them, praying that God lead them.

Opinions: If someone we invite to learn from the Bible does not accept the opportunity, should we consider our effort a failure? Why or why not?

Jesus’ most intense ministry, as we read his story, seemed to be with men. To whom do you feel God is especially sending you? Many feel a deep compassion for children, and they specialize in reaching and teaching them. Others love young people and find that they respond to them. Some feel a special call to speak to men. Others have a deep concern for women. Still others love to work with whole families. Others, with prisoners. We can usually tell to what part of humanity God wants to send us by putting a special love in our hearts for that group of people.

Experiences: Class members should express to the class the kind of people they most feel led to reach and teach.



3. What Will You Teach?

First of all, you need to offer to teach something that interests the people you invite. You know they need Christ more than anything else in life. Some people will sense this truth and will be ready for lessons that introduce them to the Bible and to its message of salvation. **“People Who Knew Jesus”** and **“Faith Power”** are designed for such people. Both are based on Bible stories—in the Gospel of John and the Acts of the Apostles. Bible stories generally are far more interesting to people than what may be called “doctrine.” For this reason, the Bible is a great collection of stories of all kinds, dealing with every kind of human situation. Hidden in each story are great doctrines of the Bible, including the doctrine of salvation itself.

After students receive Christ as Lord and Savior, they will greatly appreciate **“First Steps In Christian Discipleship”** which helps them to be sure of their faith, the reasons for baptism, and basic Bible facts about the new Christian life.

The Church on the March, in partnership with Church Starts International, offers a good variety of Bible studies dealing with many different subjects, but always encouraging faith in God and in our Lord and Savior. In addition to the evangelistic Bible studies listed above, there are studies dealing with special life issues for those who are drawn to them. For women, as an example, there are studies such as **“True Beauty”** and **“Women Facing Challenges”**. Youth are attracted by **“Popularity that Inspires”** and **“You and Your Parents.”** Men are drawn to **“Men of Character”** and most people are attracted to **“Overcoming Loneliness, Stress Survivors, Courtship and a Happy Marriage,”** and **“Where Is God When I Need Him?”** See a list of all these courses at the end of this study. Most are based on interesting stories in the Bible. For the children, and of interest as well to many adults, is a series of 260 stories from the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation. It is called **“Bible Stories for All Ages.”** As disciple-maker, you should become acquainted with all of the available studies. Knowing your students, you will decide which studies you should offer them and the order in which they will be given.

Comments: What Bible studies of Church Starts International have members of the class experienced as students or teachers? Describe your experiences with them.

4. How Will You Teach?

Most Christians are not trained as teachers. However, the materials described here are very easy to teach. Of course, it is helpful to know much about the Bible, but these studies emphasize just one story at a time and do not require a broad knowledge of the Bible. In fact, even non-Christians have been seen to teach them to their families. They can do it because of the way the stories are presented.

This leads to the greatest secret of success in teaching the Bible to others. That is to use questions to help people discover the Bible truths for themselves. This was the Hebrew way of teaching, and it is very successful today. For this reason, each Bible story lesson, whether for adults, youth or children, asks the students to answer questions about the Bible. The questions are not difficult for them, but they lead them to understand what the story is revealing about God and his way with people. The questions are given in such a way that the group will not fall into arguments about what the Bible is saying to them.

We recommend that all new Bible teachers use these studies with the people God opens to them. Through this, the teacher will soon understand how to lead Bible study, on any Bible text, by asking questions. When the students want to study parts of the Bible for which there is no printed lesson, the teacher will know how to guide interesting study by constantly asking questions and getting the students to think for themselves, discovering God’s truth. The more we can get our students to talk, and to talk wisely, the more they will learn. What they hear themselves say always makes a greater impression than what they hear the teacher say. Between their answers, the teacher is always welcome to express his or her own ideas, but teachers should avoid doing most of the talking. We call such studies “interactive.” They create great interest and result in powerful learning on the part of the students.

Comments: What was the Hebrew way of teaching? Why you think it might still be the best way to teach? How do the Church on the March teaching materials help teachers to learn to teach in this way?



5. Where Will You Teach?

Jesus told us to go out into the world and make disciples there. It is wonderful to be able to teach and train Christians in the church building, but most teaching of non-Christians must be outside our churches. We can do this anywhere we can sit together with the people and look at Bible stories. It can be on the job, during lunch break. It can be a fun time with the family—including children and adults. Ladies can be invited to an afternoon “tea” in someone’s home, including conversation about a relevant Bible story. Men can gather in a restaurant for Bible discussion. Children can be gathered in many places. You might start with just one, two or three of them. Families can be invited to refreshments or a light meal and then meet in two or three different age groups.

The advantage of the Great Commission is that we can do this almost anywhere! We do not have to spend money on a place to meet. We can go straight into interested homes and teach there. We can use parks, backyards, schools, apartment complexes and even jails and military camps. In one crowded place in Guatemala, the children meet in the cemetery! Jesus taught by the lake side, upon on a mountain, and in many living rooms and dining rooms. God will show you where to go and who should be your students. You do not go to pressure people to believe like you do or to press them to make spiritual decisions. You go to open the Bible to them, and **“faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”** Romans 10:17 This way, people learn to trust you, love the Bible, and come to love the Lord, surrendering to him. This was Jesus’ simple method. Your Christian life is not complete until you are teaching others out in the world as Christ commanded.

Opinions: Why must we plan seriously to make disciples outside the church building? Where some of the places to go and teach others?

The Lord Jesus told Peter that, above all things, he wanted him to feed his lambs, to feed his sheep. You are called to find individuals and small groups who will look to you as a shepherd. With them, you can open the great stories of the Bible and see the Holy Spirit of God bringing them to saving faith in Christ. When your life has come to an end, you will hear the joyous voice of your Savior, “Well done, my good and faithful servant!”

