

LifePoint Fellows Program

“You then my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.” II Timothy 2:1-2

Purpose:

The Fellows Program exists to provide a framework for intentional and rigorous discipleship aimed at preparing and equipping believers for ministry within the local body including, but not limited to, Life Group leaders, teachers, and Elders.

Goals:

1. To prepare teachers for LifePoint's various ministries of the Word (e.g. Life Groups, Discipleship Track classes, Children and Youth workers).
2. To equip a new generation of elders/deacons to accomplish LifePoint's goal of preparing God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ might be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the full measure of Christ (Ephesians 4:12-13).
3. To create, reinforce, and model habits of Biblical and Theological study.
4. To build a sense of like-minded community and fellowship rooted in the Word of God.
5. To build into believers solid Biblical truth and doctrine to ward off “itching ears” (2 Timothy 4:3), protect the local body from false doctrines and “myths” (2 Timothy 4:4), and to “rightly handle the Word of Truth” (2 Timothy 2:15).

Overview:

The Fellows Program will consist of four areas of study designed to provide an overview of God's work in history and instruction in Biblical study and interpretation.

Term 1: The Story of Redemption

(rational theology, biblical theology, historical theology)

- The story of God's people beginning with creation and moving to Israel and ultimately the church.
- Foundational doctrines as they were formulated through the early church, redefined during the Reformation, and as they are presented today.

Objectives:

1. Students will be presented with the challenge and responsibility of engaging their minds in the study of scripture, doctrine, and theology for the purpose of growing in holiness and being equipped for “every good work.”
2. Students will trace the storyline of the Bible as it pertains to the people of God, beginning with creation, moving to the patriarchs and culminating with the church.
3. Students will analyze the impact of significant moments in church history on doctrine, theology and practice.

Term 2: The God of Redemption

(systematic theology, Christology, soteriology)

- The Author of the story focusing on His character, nature and attributes as they are presented in scripture.
- The means of redemption in Christ.
- The work of redemption by Christ.

Objectives:

1. Students will engage in a topical study of the attributes of God as He has revealed Himself in His Word.
2. Students will analyze God's work in redemption as accomplished through Christ.
3. Students will study the person, nature, and work of Christ as it relates to redemption.

Term 3: The Book of Redemption

(exegesis, hermeneutics, homiletics)

- The nature of the Bible.
- The formation of the Bible.
- The interpretation of the Bible.

Objectives:

1. Students will evaluate and sharpen tools for Biblical study.
2. Students will exegete passages for the purpose of teaching and/or study.
3. Students will learn how to interpret Biblical texts and decipher meaning in order to discern context and dictate application.
4. Students will gain an appreciation for the literature of the Bible and the beauty and skill exhibited in all genres and the unity therein.

Term 4: The Life of Redemption

(ecclesiology, church polity, worldview/cultural engagement)

- The response to the work of Christ.
- The communication of the work of Christ.

Objectives:

1. Students will analyze the practical application of doctrine and theology and how it manifests itself in life and ministry.
2. Students will evaluate the current culture and engage it through the lens of a Biblical worldview.
3. Students will begin to apply their skills through teaching, eldership, and other areas of ministry within the local church.

Books:

Introduction:

Think, John Piper

Term 1:

God's Big Picture, Vaughan Roberts

Turning Points, Mark Noll

Term 2:

Systematic Theology, Wayne Grudem

Attributes of God, Arthur Pink

Knowing God, J.I. Packer

Redemption Accomplished and Applied, John Murray

Term 3:

40 Questions about Interpreting the Bible, Robert L. Plummer

Term 4:

Biblical Eldership, Alexander Strauch

Creation Regained, Albert Wolters

The Courage to Be Protestant, David F. Wells

Nine Marks of a Healthy Church, Mark Dever