

Equip Biblical Institute
Church Planting * Team Leadership * Pastors Institute
 2100 Greenfield Drive, El Cajon, CA 92019



225 Simple-Essential Church Syllabus ©

Instructor:
 Teaching Site:
 Semester and Year:

Course Description

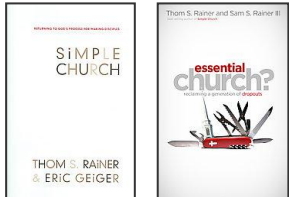
This course focuses on how to become a simple-essential church that is faithful to the Bible and relevant to the unchurched it is seeking to reach for Christ. Topics include returning to God’s process for making disciples through clarity, movement, alignment, and focus—and reclaiming a generation of dropouts by understanding why people leave the nonessential church, and by understanding how essential churches close the back door. Students will develop an individual project and an action plan for becoming a disciple-making church.

Course Design Comments

This course is designed to equip church starters, pastors, and leaders with Bible knowledge, Christian character, servant leadership, and teaching experience with the goal of life-change. It addresses the diverse learning styles of adults through active discussion, charts, visuals, Internet research, team-building, and project-based learning. To ensure transfer of credit, changes to this course syllabus must be approved by both Equip Biblical Institute and Southern California Seminary. *Suggestions for improving course design and content are appreciated.*

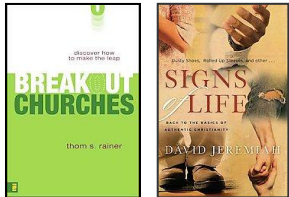
Required Textbooks

1. The Holy Bible. A translation, such as the *New International Version*, the *New American Standard Version*, or the *New King James Version*, is recommended for study. A paraphrase, such as the *New Living Translation*, is recommended for enhanced understanding.
2. Thom S. Rainer. *Simple Church: Returning to God’s Process for Making Disciples*. Grand Rapids: MI: Zondervan, 2006. 9780805443905
<http://www.bestwebbuys.com/9780805443905>
3. Thom S. Rainer. *Essential Church: Reclaiming a Generation of Dropouts*. Grand Rapids: MI: Zondervan, 2008. 9780805443929
<http://www.bestwebbuys.com/9780805443929>



Recommended Resources

4. David Jeremiah. *Signs of Life: Discover Personal Transformation that Changes the World*. Thomas Nelson, 2007. 9780785228097
<http://www.bestwebbuys.com/9780785228097>
5. Thom S. Rainer. *Breakout Churches: Discover How to Make the Leap*. Grand Rapids: MI: Zondervan, 2005. 031025745X



Books can be ordered through a local bookstore or on the Internet.

Learning Outcomes

The student who successfully completes this course will be able to:

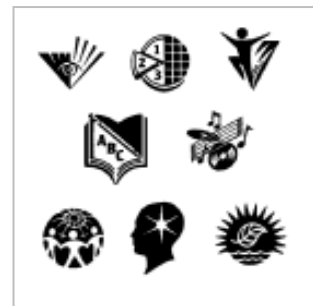
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| 1. Describe the simple revolution and the simple church in action. |
| 2. Describe the simple church extreme makeover and three simple stories. |
| 3. Describe becoming a simple church: clarity and movement. |
| 4. Describe becoming a simple church: alignment and focus. |
| 5. Describe becoming a simple church and introducing the essential church. |
| 6. Describe why people leave the nonessential church. |
| 7. Describe how essential churches close the back door. |
| 8. Describe how churches can reach new generations by simplifying and deepening. |
| 9. Contribute to a group presentation on simple church: making disciples. |
| 10. Develop a sermon or visual project on becoming an essential church: reclaiming dropouts. |
| 11. Create a typed action plan for becoming a disciple-making church. |

Methods of Instruction

Instruction emphasizes active learning, project-based learning, collaborative team-based learning, reflection, discussion, interactive lecture, story-telling, drama, visuals, PowerPoint, quizzes, and exams, with the goal of long-term and real-world learning that results in life-change and leading healthy churches. The major pedagogical premise of this course is that students should be treated like the professionals they are becoming. Dr. Gary C. Woods has served as the Bible Department Chairman and Registrar at Southern California Seminary. He has a Doctor of Education in Technology and Learning from Alliant International University, a Master of Divinity in Missions from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and a Bachelor of Science in Cross-Cultural and Pastoral Ministry from Liberty University. He has served as a Southern Baptist pastor and church planter under the North American Mission Board. In 2008 Dr. Woods was elected to the Board of Grossmont Union High School District in San Diego with 20,000 students.



The goal of *balanced instruction* is to address each of the learning strengths of diverse adult learners, including verbal, visual, musical, logical, kinesthetic, reflective, interpersonal, natural, and spiritual. *Student-centered instruction* is most effective when it impacts the mind, the will, and the emotions. *TEAM-based Learning*: Students are encouraged to study in teams before or after class for at least one hour per week working on study skills, application skills, individual projects, and group projects. Students do not give answers to co-learners, but help them learn how to find the answers. Everyone contributes to the learning process. **TEAM = Together Everyone Accomplishes More**



Dr. Thom S. Rainer is president of LifeWay.
<http://www.lifeway.com/lwc/mainpage/0,1701,M%253D200927,00.html>
www.RainerGroup.com

Student Requirements

First, successfully complete the **quizzes** in the Portfolio before class. This will assist student-leaders in focusing on core information and developing the time-on-task study skills and writing skills essential to effective learning and long-term memory.

Second, maintain the **journal** in the Portfolio using the three-step process of observation, interpretation, and application: (1) What is God teaching you in this session? (2) How are you going to apply these concepts to your life, family, and ministry? (3) How can your church apply these concepts to making disciples and developing leaders? This will assist student-leaders in developing reflection, application, and decision-making skills essential to spiritual growth.

Third, each session **discuss** the quizzes and journal in the Portfolio. (1) What are we as a group learning about the Bible and transformational leadership in this course? (2) How can we as leaders apply these concepts to our lives, families, and ministries? (3) How can our churches apply these concepts to making disciples and developing leaders? This will assist student-leaders in developing the relational, speaking and creative/critical thinking skills essential to effective teaching and servant-leadership.

Fourth, complete the **final exam** in the Portfolio. Summarize becoming a simple-essential church in 1,000 words. This will assist student-leaders in developing long-term memory through multiple reviews of the core material. This exam will become the basis for the booklet or term paper. Week 11

Fifth, contribute to a **group presentation** titled **Simple Church: Making Disciples**. This group project can be a PowerPoint presentation, dramatic skit, role-play, set of charts or drawings (15-20 minutes). This will assist student-leaders in developing the creative/critical thinking and teamwork skills essential to effective teaching, servant-leadership, and ministry. Week 12

Sixth, create an **individual project** on a chapter in **Essential Church: Reclaiming Dropouts** based on textbooks, online articles, course notes, and other materials. The individual project can be a sermon manuscript, banner, booklet, chart, collage, dramatic reading, graphic organizer, lesson, monologue, outline, painting, poem, PowerPoint, scroll, song, story, timeline, or webpage for becoming an essential church for use with training church leadership teams (10 minute class presentation). This will assist student-leaders in developing their learning and teaching style skills essential to effective ministry. Week 13

Seventh, create a typed illustrated **booklet** or **term paper** titled **Action Plan for Becoming a Disciple-Making Church** based on textbooks, online articles, course notes, and other materials to be distributed in your church. Be sure to *footnote all the ideas, paraphrases, and direct quotes in your paper*, whether from books or the Internet. Booklet should be at least 3000 words in length. Text should be single-spaced. Font should be Times New Roman 11 font. Begin with an introduction and conclude with an application or call for commitment. Include illustrations and charts. This will assist student-leaders in developing the creative/critical thinking and writing skills essential to effective servant-leadership. Week 14

Objective. The objective of this course is to take student-leaders from where they are and move them to where they need to be. Students will learn how (1) to read with their brains, (2) to remember what they have read, (3) to sharpen their thoughts through journaling, (4) to speak effectively before others, (5) to work as learning teams of leaders, and (5) to biblically apply what they are learning to life, family, and ministry. Adults learn in multiple ways and so this course incorporates multiple learning styles. By applying these concepts of champion learners, students will improve with each course they take as they are equipped in Bible knowledge, Christian character, and ministry skills. Welcome to Simple Church Leadership.

Sequence of Instruction

Read the table like this, “At Session ____ on _____, the scheduled session content is _____, and the assignment **due that session** is _____.”

Session	Date	Session Content	Assignment Due
1		<p>The Simple Revolution Has Begun The Simple Church in Action Overview of Syllabus Grade and discuss Portfolio quiz and journal. Group Activity: Create a visual summary of one the chapters. Demonstrate examples of the following: Simple Church: Making Disciples Essential Church: Reclaiming Dropouts Action Plan for Becoming a Disciple-Making Church</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Print 225 Simple-Essential Church Portfolio. <input type="checkbox"/> Study introduction and chapters 1-2 in <i>Simple Church</i>. <input type="checkbox"/> Type answers to the Portfolio quiz and journal in preparation for the class discussion and group activity. <input type="checkbox"/> Read the Baptist Faith and Message http://www.sbc.net/printfriendly.asp
2		<p>Simple Church: An Extreme Makeover Three Simple Stories Grade and discuss Portfolio quiz and journal. Group Activity: Create a visual summary of a simple church.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Study chapters 3-4 in <i>Simple Church</i>. <input type="checkbox"/> Type answers to the Portfolio quiz and journal in preparation for the class discussion and group activity.
3		<p>Clarity: a Ministry Blueprint Movement: Removing Congestion Grade and discuss Portfolio quiz and journal. Group Activity: Create a visual summary of clarity or movement.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Study chapters 5-6 in <i>Simple Church</i>. <input type="checkbox"/> Type answers to the Portfolio quiz and journal in preparation for the class discussion and group activity.
4		<p>Alignment: Maximizing the Energy of Everyone Focus: Saying No to Almost Everything Grade and discuss Portfolio quiz and journal. Group Activity: Create a visual summary of alignment or focus.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Study chapter 7-8 in <i>Simple Church</i>. <input type="checkbox"/> Type answers to the Portfolio quiz and journal in preparation for the class discussion and group activity.
5		<p>Becoming Simple Introducing the Essential Church Grade and discuss Portfolio quiz and journal. Group Activity: Create a visual summary of becoming simple or introducing the essential church.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Study chapter 9 in <i>Simple Churches</i>. <input type="checkbox"/> Study the introduction in <i>Essential Church</i>. <input type="checkbox"/> Type answers to the Portfolio quiz and journal in preparation for the class discussion and group activity.
6		<p>Why People Leave the Nonessential Church My Faith is not my Parents' Faith Looking for a Different Kind of Community Grade and discuss Portfolio quiz and journal. Group Activity: Create a visual summary of why people leave the nonessential church.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Study chapters 1-2 in <i>Essential Churches</i>. <input type="checkbox"/> Study the notes on <i>The Unchurched Next Door: Understanding Faith Stages</i>. <input type="checkbox"/> Type answers to the Portfolio quiz and journal in preparation for the class discussion and group activity.

Session	Date	Session Content	Assignment Due
7		That's Life! It Changes A New Spin on Hypocrisy Grade and discuss Portfolio quiz and journal. Group Activity: Create a visual summary of why people leave the nonessential church.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Study chapter 3-4 in <i>Essential Churches</i>. <input type="checkbox"/> Study the notes on <i>Breakout Churches</i>. <input type="checkbox"/> Type answers to the Portfolio quiz and journal in preparation for the class discussion and group activity.
8		Bring Family and Friends All Eyes on the Main Man The Essential Church and the Back Door Grade and discuss Portfolio quiz and journal. Group Activity: Create a visual summary of closing the back door.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Study chapters 5-6 in <i>Essential Churches</i>. <input type="checkbox"/> T Study the notes on <i>High Expectations</i>. <input type="checkbox"/> ype answers to the Portfolio quiz and journal in preparation for the class discussion and group activity. <input type="checkbox"/> It is time to enroll in the next course and order textbooks.
9		Simplify: Getting the Structure Right Deepen: Getting the Content Right Grade and discuss Portfolio quiz and journal. Group Activity: Create a visual summary of closing the back door.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Study chapters 7-8 in <i>Essential Churches</i>. <input type="checkbox"/> Study the notes on <i>Surprising Insights from the Unchurched</i>. <input type="checkbox"/> Type answers to the Portfolio quiz and journal in preparation for the class discussion and group activity.
10		Expect: Getting the Attitude Right Multiply: Getting the Action Right Grade and discuss Portfolio quiz and journal. Group Activity: Create a visual summary of becoming a simple-essential-breakout church.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Study chapters 9-10 in <i>Essential Churches</i>. <input type="checkbox"/> Study the notes on <i>Leading the Established Church</i>. <input type="checkbox"/> Type answers to the Portfolio quiz and journal in preparation for the class discussion and group activity.
11		Final Exam Grade and discuss Portfolio final exam and journal. Group Activity: Students will prepare for group presentations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Summarize Simple Church in 500 words and summarize Essential Church in 500 words for the final exam in the Portfolio. <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare to work with your group to team-teach a group presentation using PowerPoint or handouts.
12		Group Presentations: Students will team-teach in a group presentation, Simple Church: Making Disciples. Bring Family and Friends	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare for Group Presentations on Simple Church: Making Disciples.
13		Individual Projects: Each student will present a project, Essential Church: Reclaiming Dropouts. Bring Family and Friends	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Complete individual project Essential Churches.
14		Booklet or Term Paper: Each student will present a booklet, Action Plan for Becoming a Disciple-Making Church. Bring Family and Friends Submit Portfolio for grading.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Complete 3,000-word booklet: Becoming a Disciple-Making Church. <input type="checkbox"/> Distribute the textbooks for the next course.

Notice: EBI holds to the [Baptist Faith and Message](#). The inclusion of articles, books, or external links in this list does not imply that the opinions expressed represent the official position of EBI. Primary resources dealing with cults, denominations, education, liberalism, postmodernism, secular culture, and world religions may be included.

Webliography: Church Relevance External Links

1. Animated Gospel Presentations <http://www.namb.net/site/pp.asp?c=9qKILUOzEpH&b=238369>
2. Answers to Common Objections http://www.onmission.com/webzine/mar_apr00/ready_answers.htm
3. Bible.org evangelism articles http://www.bible.org/series.asp?series_id=60
4. Bible Gateway.com Gospel Communications resources <http://www.biblegateway.com/>
5. Billy Graham Evangelistic Association http://www.billygraham.org/SH_StepsToPeace.asp
6. Campus Crusade for Christ International resources <http://www.ccci.org/>
<http://www.10basicsteps.com/main.htm>
7. Central Coast Baptist Association evangelism resources
<http://www.ccbministries.org/templates/aso08gr/details.asp?id=24127&PID=87777>
8. Christian Apologetics and Research Ministry evangelism articles
<http://www.carm.org/evangelize.htm>
9. Christianity Today evangelism articles
<http://www.christianitytoday.com/biblestudies/areas/biblestudies/articles/040818.html>
<http://www.christianitytoday.com/biblestudies/areas/biblestudies/articles/#evangelism>
10. Community Evangelism <http://www.namb.net/site/pp.asp?c=9qKILUOzEpH&b=258448>
11. Discipleship Journal articles <http://www.navpress.com/Magazines/DJ/ArchiveSearch.asp>
12. EvangeLinks <http://www.cforc.com/EvangeLinks/>
13. Evangelistic conversation starters <http://www.biblicalspirituality.org/art10q.html#gospelq>
14. Evangelism issues <http://net-burst.net/hot/>
15. Evangelism links <http://bgc.gospelcom.net/ise/links.html>
16. Evangelism.com "Toolbox" <http://www.evangelism.com/>
17. Faith http://www.lifeway.com/lwc/article_main_page/0,1703,A=150519&M=50024,00.html
18. Good News evangelism resources <http://www.thegoodnews.org/>
19. Gospelcom.net <http://www.gospelcom.net/>
20. Institute of Strategic Evangelism links <http://bgc.gospelcom.net/ise/links.html>
21. Leadership Journal Church Research
<http://store.yahoo.com/buildingchurchleaders/specialreports.html>
22. LifeWay.com evangelism articles
<http://www.lifeway.com/lwc/mainpage/0,1701,M%253D50090,00.html>
23. Mission America Coalition evangelism articles <http://66.179.80.180/cgi-bin/gx.cgi/applogic+ftcontentserver?pagename=FaithHighway/10000/3000/671MI/evangelism>
24. Need Him <http://www.needhim.org/>
25. North American Mission Board <http://www.namb.net/site/pp.asp?c=9qKILUOzEpH&b=224374>
26. On Mission to Share Jesus <http://www.namb.net/site/pp.asp?c=9qKILUOzEpH&b=224378>
27. Sharing With Other Faiths <http://www.namb.net/site/pp.asp?c=9qKILUOzEpH&b=224393>
28. Sketches relating to evangelism <http://www.namb.net/site/pp.asp?c=9qKILUOzEpH&b=232045>
29. Steps to Peace with God <http://www.fishthe.net/steps/steps1.htm>
http://www.billygraham.org/SH_StepsToPeace.asp
<http://www.cbmc.com/tools/gospel/steps2peace.htm> <http://members.cox.net/www/index4.html>
<http://www.countrytrailband.org/steps/steps.htm>
30. The NET articles <http://www.namb.net/evangelism/thenet/>
31. Web-evangelism <http://www.brigada.org/today/articles/web-evangelism.html>
32. Witnessing to Catholics <http://www.justforcatholics.org/links.htm>
<http://www.christiananswers.net/evangelism/beliefs/catholicism.html> <http://www.gnfc.org/>
<http://www.contenderministries.org/catholicism.php>
33. Witnessing to Postmoderns http://www.onmission.com/webzine/jan_feb02/post_moderns.htm
http://www.onmission.com/webzine/sept_oct02/truthquest.htm
http://www.onmission.com/webzine/sept_oct02/on_mission_resources.htm
http://www.onmission.com/webzine/mar_apr00/ready_answers.htm

- http://www.onmission.com/webzine/sept_oct02/postmodern_postcards.htm
<http://www.sonlifeafrica.com/model/pomo3.htm> <http://www.leaderu.com/cl-institute/openforum/>
34. Shadow Mountain Community Church www.shadowmountain.org
 35. Turning Point articles http://www.oneplace.com/Ministries/Turning_Point/Article_Archives.asp
 36. Turning Point Hot Topics http://www.turningpointradio.org/hot_topics.html

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- Aldrich, Joseph C. *Life-Style Evangelism: Crossing Traditional Boundaries to Reach the Unbelieving World*. Portland, OR: Multnomah Press, 1981. 0880700238
- Anderson, Leith. *A Church for the 21st Century: Bringing Change to Your Church to Meet the Challenges of a Changing Society*. Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House, 1992.
- Benavides, Victor H. *Inner City Evangelism (ICE)*. Alpharetta, GA: North American Mission Board, 2003.
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- Schaller, Lyle E. *Looking in the Mirror: Self-Appraisal in the Local Church*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 1984.
- Stedman, Ray C. *Body Life: The Church Comes Alive!* Ventura, CA: Regal, 1972.
- Strobel, Lee. *Inside the Mind of Unchurched Harry and Mary*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1993. 0310375614
- Swindoll, Charles R. *Rise and Shine: A Wake-up Call*. Sisters, OR: Multnomah, 1989.

Transfer of Credits to Southern California Seminary

To transfer credits from Equip Biblical Institute to Southern California Seminary, students must present a complete portfolio of their course work. The portfolio consists of the quizzes, journal reflections, booklets or term papers, and exams for each course. Upon successful completion of the course, students may transfer units into the Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Studies degree. If the portfolio for a course is not complete, the credits may not be transferable.

Attendance Policy. Attending class on time is important to receive the most out of the course. Entering class late disrupts the learning process of all students. Students are permitted three absences for a 14-week semester course. For the semester (28-classroom hours) courses, more than 10 minutes late is a *Tardy*; more than 20 minutes late is an *Absence*. Two tardies count as one absence. College credit cannot be transferred to Southern California Seminary when a student misses four or more class sessions. A grade of NC (No Credit) will be recorded when a student misses four sessions or does not complete coursework on time. Exceptions must be *approved in writing* by the class instructor, the Site Director, and the Director of Equip Biblical Institute and will involve additional assignments mandated by Equip Biblical Institute. Students who attend all 14 sessions will receive 100 points.

