



The Austin Stone Development Program Fall 2019 - Spring 2020

North:

Tuesday Nights
September 24th-April 28th
Location: North Campus,
1150 McNeil Rd

St. John:

Wednesday Nights
August 28th-March 29th
Location: St. John Campus,
500 E St Johns Ave

West & South:

Sunday Nights
September 8th-March 29th
Location: West Campus,
916 S Capital of Texas Hwy

PROGRAM DIRECTORS

South: BJ Forgyson, bj@austinstone.org

West: Justin Dunton, justin.dunton@austinstone.org

North: Brian Benkendorfer, brian@austinstone.org

St. John: Stephen Crawford, stephen@austinstone.org

Central support: Jake Riddle, jake@austinstone.org

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A scriptural approach to Christian spirituality and theology. Students will engage with biblical and contemporary materials while pursuing intimacy with and conformity to Jesus Christ through the practice of spiritual disciplines and the study of systematic theology.

REQUIRED TEXTS¹

Grudem, Wayne. *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*. Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity Press; Zondervan Pub. House, 2004.

Whitney, Donald S. *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*. Colorado Springs, Colorado: NavPress, 2014.

Plummer, Robert L. *40 Questions About Interpreting the Bible*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2010.

Doctrine & Disciplines Workbook. The Austin Stone, 2019.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. The student will acquire a basic systematic understanding of Christian theology.
2. The student will be able to pastorally and precisely articulate doctrine using Scripture as it relates to a variety of common ministry situations.
3. The student will practice spiritual disciplines of Bible intake, Scripture meditation and memorization, prayer, fasting, evangelism, silence and solitude, and personal accountability.
4. The student will be an active member of a learning cohort for the duration of the program.

¹ Students attending program at The Austin Stone will be provided with the required books at the first lecture.

ASSESSMENTS

Students will participate in three oral assessments. Assessments are presided over by elders, deacons, and other leaders within the church body. Each assessment will take approximately one hour to complete, and are designed to imitate difficult real-world ministry situations. Students will contend with an assessor who pretends to be either unfamiliar or unconvinced of a particular doctrine. Assessments can be high-stress environments and students should prepare accordingly. It is recommended that cohorts schedule study sessions for each assessment to review and practice for the assessment.

COHORTS

Growing in knowledge, while important, is not the principle aim of this course. This course is designed for students who are serious about growing in intimacy with and conformity to Christ. To that end, students are placed into cohorts led by program alumni or current Austin Stone leadership. Cohorts provide an effective environment for reflection, cooperative learning, and accountability. Cohorts meet each week immediately following a lecture or at another agreed upon time.

EXPECTATIONS

Students are expected to complete all assignments and attend every lecture and cohort meeting. In rare cases, students may be allowed to miss a lecture or cohort meeting, but are required to view a past recording of the lecture found at www.austinstoneinstitute.org. Students who fail to complete all assignments and/or miss too many lectures will not be given credit for having taken this course.

Coaches are more than discussion leaders. They serve as mentors, counselor, tutors, advisers, and shepherds for each member of their cohort. Coaches provide motivation, encouragement, and accountability to help students manage the difficulty of this course. Except for extenuating circumstances, coaches are expected to attend all lectures and cohort meetings. For this reason, coaches must maintain adequate margin in their schedules to prioritize the members of their cohort for the duration of the course.

Program Directors hold the primary responsibility for coordination, communication, and ministry needs. Unless otherwise designated, Program Directors will be the main point of contact for coaches at their respective congregations.

OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course, all participants will have completed each of the following:

- Read 48+ chapters in *Systematic Theology* by Wayne Grudem
- Read *Spiritual Disciplines of the Christian Life* by Donald Whitney
- Read *40 Questions About Interpreting the Bible* by Robert L. Plummer
- Completed all activities in *Doctrines & Disciplines Workbook*
- Attended 18 lectures
- Participated in 3 Oral Assessments
- Read the Bible every day for the duration of the program
- Memorized and recited aloud 3 passages of Scripture from memory of varying length: Psalm 1, Psalm 103, Romans 8
- Prayed every day for one month concerning 4 identified prayer points
- Fasted for at least 24 hours
- Participated in 4 hours of silence & solitude
- Regularly met with an accountability partner(s)
- Shared the gospel with one non-believer

LEARNING TIPS

1. Complete all reading assignments and workbook materials *before* attending each lecture
2. Listen to Wayne Grudem's *Systematic Theology* [podcast](#)
3. Set apart specific times in your schedule each week to complete the reading, workbook assignments, and Spiritual Disciplines Journal.
4. Schedule a time in advance to complete each activity in the Spiritual Disciplines Journal. It is best if you can complete each activity along with the other members of your cohort.
5. Make flashcards to help you memorize definitions and verses. Regularly quiz each other when you meet as a cohort. You can also utilize study aids such as Quizlet or The Bible Memory App.
6. Schedule additional study sessions for each Oral Assessment.

COURSE TOPICS

1. Doctrine of the Word of God Pt. 1
2. Doctrine of the Word of God Pt. 2
3. Hermeneutics: Bible Study Methods
4. Doctrine of God 1: Incommunicable Attributes
5. Doctrine of God 2: Communicable Attributes
6. The Trinity
7. Imago Dei
8. Doctrine of Sin
9. The Person of Christ
10. The Work of Christ
11. The Person & Work of the Holy Spirit
12. God-centeredness of God/Christian Hedonism
13. Unconditional Election
14. Doctrine of Salvation 1: Calling, Regeneration, Conversion, Justification
15. Doctrine of Salvation 2: Adoption, Sanctification, Perseverance, & Glorification
16. Doctrine of Providence
17. Ecclesiology
18. Eschatology

SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

1. Bible Intake
2. Prayer
3. Accountability
4. Fasting
5. Silence & Solitude
6. Evangelism
7. Discipleship