



# Writer Development Foundations

## SYLLABUS

*Training faithful writers to create compelling work, for the glory of God and the flourishing of people*

### Course Philosophy

When we write what is good, beautiful, and true, we honor God and the gift He gave us, and we serve people in a way that glorifies Him. Writers should strive to be faithful stewards of their writing gift and seek to continually grow in theological, craft, and creative precision and excellence.

### Course Objectives

- Students will understand their primary identity as a child of God and their writer identity as both secondary and subject to the primary identity
- Students will have a basic understanding of writing craft and a framework for growth
- Students will value writing community and feedback as an important and healthy part of growth
- Students will be able to identify growth experienced during the program and areas where continued growth is needed
- Students will have tried various forms of writing, hopefully some new, and be able to identify strengths and weaknesses
- Students will have grown in love for God, the writing craft, and creativity
- Students will have the tools and knowledge to create a personal plan for next writing project and continued growth; also a plan for community next steps





## Course Sessions

You'll find specific content, including teaching videos, slides, and homework in each session. Below is an overview of what the entire course will cover.

Session	Topic	Core Content	Writing Genre
Introduction	<b>Course Introduction</b>	This session introduces the core course components, structure, and expectations.	
Session 1	<b>Sub-Creation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Theology: <i>Created to Create</i></li><li>• Craft: <i>Good, Beautiful, and True</i></li><li>• Creative: <i>The Writer's Mission Statement</i></li></ul>	Forum Introduction
Session 2	<b>Order</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Theology: <i>God Is a God of Order</i></li><li>• Craft: <i>Order and Clarity are Loving</i></li><li>• Creative: <i>Practicing Clarity and Order</i></li></ul>	Personal Essay
Session 3	<b>Discipline</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Theology: <i>Why Discipline Matters</i></li><li>• Craft: <i>Cultivating Discipline</i></li><li>• Creative: <i>Start with Self-Reflection</i></li></ul>	Reflection and Goals
Session 4	<b>Feedback</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Theology: <i>Identity and Critique</i></li><li>• Craft: <i>Giving and Receiving Feedback</i></li><li>• Creative: <i>Revision Basics</i></li></ul>	Critique Introduction
Session 5	<b>Story</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Theology: <i>Story Through Scripture</i></li><li>• Craft: <i>Elements of Story</i></li><li>• Creative: <i>Moving from Idea to Story</i></li></ul>	Short Story
Session 6	<b>Resonance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Theology: <i>True Resonance</i></li><li>• Craft: <i>False Forms of Beauty</i></li></ul>	Short Story





		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creative: <i>When Christian Art Doesn't Resonate</i></li> </ul>	
Session 7	<b>Truth</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theology: <i>Foundational Truth</i></li> <li>• Craft: <i>Elements of a Solid Argument</i></li> <li>• Creative: <i>Workshopping Arguments</i></li> </ul>	Persuasive Essay
Session 8	<b>Beauty</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theology: <i>Biblical Beauty</i></li> <li>• Craft: <i>Poetry Tools and Forms</i></li> <li>• Creative: <i>Poetry Roundtable</i></li> </ul>	Poetry
Session 9	<b>Collaboration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theology: <i>Created for Community</i></li> <li>• Craft: <i>Collaborating with Other Artists</i></li> <li>• Creative: <i>Thriving Together</i></li> </ul>	Collaborative Liturgy
Session 10	<b>Stewardship</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theology: <i>Stewardship Principles</i></li> <li>• Craft: <i>Stewarding Next Steps</i></li> <li>• Creative: <i>Steward Your Gift</i></li> </ul>	Next Steps Action Plan
Conclusion	<b>Conclusion</b>	This session wraps up the course and commissions writers to go out and write.	

## Recommended Texts

We use these texts in the Writer Development Program to enhance the overall learning experience. These are not required reading, but we do recommend them if you want to go deeper into the content and related ideas.

- *Art and the Bible*, Francis A. Schaeffer
- *Art + Faith*, Makoto Fujimura
- *On Reading Well: The Good Life Through Great Books*, Karen Swallow Prior
- *On Writing Well*, William Zinsser

