

# Biblical Training Internship for Men



## Agenda and goals:

The aim of this internship is to glorify God by joining Jesus on His disciple-making mission through the equipping of our men to lead in their homes, workplaces, gospel communities, and wider church family.

Our church desires to take responsibility for developing godly, competent, and mature disciples of Jesus at every level of the church's ministry and mission. Through this internship, we hope to further equip our church for continual, sustainable growth and impact for the kingdom of God.

Our internships are all about helping you grow in your love and devotion to Jesus and your effectiveness in making disciples of Jesus. The internship is not simply a class or a program, but is an experience within a local church context for life-on-life missional discipleship. Your assignments are meant to propel real transformation in your heart (motives/affections), head (understanding), and hands (action). You will do this in the context of real community where you will be challenged, encouraged, and helped to move forward as a disciple of Jesus, empowered by His Spirit, able to make disciples that make disciples. Put simply, the aim of this internship is to cultivate your love for Jesus and equip you to be an effective disciple-making disciple.

The goal is life transformation, not just head information.

## Qualifications

Because we will make a significant investment in a developing leader, not just anyone may be a part of the program. A prospective intern must meet the following criteria:

1. Be an active covenant partner of Grace Fellowship for a minimum of six months who effectively embodies what it means to be a mature disciple of Jesus – including serving and financially supporting the church's mission. Note: Exceptions may be made in cases such as a prospective intern who will be moving to our area for the purpose of an internship or apprenticeship. In such cases, partnering with Grace Fellowship will still be required before entering the program, but the six-month prerequisite would be waived, provided the prospective intern can provide a satisfactory written commendation from their previous church family.
2. Must be in complete agreement with Grace Fellowship's [statement of faith](#), [doctrinal emphasis](#), and [the Acts 29 five distinctives](#). If there are points of doctrine that you do not fully understand, or with which you do not fully agree, you will be required to disclose your differences and/or lack of understanding in writing before entering the program. The elders will review your written statements and determine whether or not your doctrinal differences and/or lack of understanding are significant enough to preclude you from the internship.
3. Committed to the Vision, Mission, Doctrinal Distinctives, and Core Values of Grace Fellowship.
4. Diligently seeks a growing personal relationship with the Lord, and maintains a humble, teachable spirit.
5. Must obtain commendations from three people (not family members) who are known and/or approved by the elders. At least one of these must provide a written commendation. These people must affirm their current and personal awareness of the applicant's character, enthusiasm, self-discipline, work ethic, teachable spirit, submission to leadership, cooperation with others, faithfulness in attendance and participation, etc.

## Counting the Cost

Like all dedicated Christian ministry, this internship will place certain necessary demands on a person and their family (e.g., time, energy, extra study, etc.). Those who have significant responsibilities with family, work, school, and/or do not have the full and informed support of significant family members should not consider the internship at this time.

### Commitments and Expectations:

- Communicate. Communicate. Communicate. Come prepared and on time for each Sunday gathering and training sessions. As we are a family, you will be expected to inform us whenever you know you will be absent.
- Commit to completing the agreed-upon assignments (unless hindered by unforeseen challenges).
- Register for and complete any Grace seminars and/or theological training offered (i.e., our interactive Bible seminars held three times a year are required for all our interns).
- Recognizing the necessity of dependent prayer as a gathered body, interns will arrange their Sunday-morning schedule to ensure they will participate in the prayer time before the gathering begins. Communicate when you can't make it.
- Aim to stay until the end of each gathering (i.e., 12 noon) – purposefully making gospel connections.
- As our learning and growth happens not in a vacuum but in hands-on ministry with others, here are two practical expectations for every intern: (1) lead, or assist in leading, a Gospel Community; (2) serve in Grace Kids.
- Support one another in prayer.
- At the end of the year, celebrate what God is doing and has done!

**Length of intern commitment:** This intern agreement will be in effect for one year. Each year, we'll evaluate the year and decide whether it would be beneficial to continue for another year.

### Our hope and prayer is that this internship would help you:

- Know the Gospel and its implications for all of life.
- Know how to read the Bible well and develop a healthy regular rhythm of Bible reading and study.
- Know how to pray and grow in frequency and regularity in prayer and ongoing communion with Jesus.
- Know what your identity is in Jesus, why it matters, and how it changes everything
- Understand and love the central role of the local church and what it looks like to be a healthy part of the family.
- Be confidently established in the foundations of faith in a reproducible way so you can teach others.
- Know how to teach, share, and defend what you believe and why.
- Be able to disciple others with grace, clarity, and effectiveness.
- Understand your missional role as an ambassador, kingdom representative, and Gospel proclaimer.
- Mature as a faithful steward in all God has gifted and equipped you in, for the glory of God, the good of the church, and the advancement of the mission.

## TRAINING REQUIREMENTS & MATERIALS

### **Bible Reading:**

Each intern is expected to regularly commune with God in prayerful Scripture reading and meditation. To this end, we want all our interns to participate in the church Bible reading plan.

### **Scripture Memory**

Each participant is encouraged to memorize passages of Scripture from a solid, word-for-word translation.

### **Reading and Journaling Requirements**

Trainees will be required to read and/or listen to the assigned materials (listed below) in the order given in this document. There is an additional recommended reading list that you can refer to in order to build upon the core teachings in our mandatory books/materials. As you work through the assigned resources, write down a one-page summary. Include: (i) a brief summary of the core main point of the book; (ii) key takeaways and how the truths in this book have shaped your thinking; (iii) action steps to take in light of what you have read, and if applicable, (iv) any remaining or new questions you might now have or thoughts you would like to further explore.

**\*\*Participants must obtain their own books for these reading assignments. If cost is an issue, please make us aware.\*\***

### **NOTES:**

Our intern training cycles through 14 topics every two years:

- **Gospel I & II:** *Gospel Centrality; Trusting & Treasuring the Bible; Gospel Transformation*
- **Biblical Theology I & II:** *Seeing the Whole Bible; Enjoying the Whole Bible; New Covenant Theology*
- **Doctrine I & II:** *Grace's Documents; Systematic Theology; Complementarianism; God's Sovereignty*
- **The Christian Life I & II:** *The Church; Gender & Sexuality; Communion with God; Suffering*

An intern will advance through levels in each of the above topics. Each level will help you build upon previous learning in each area.

## Level 1 (i.e., first two years of an internship)

Interns must read the book(s) corresponding to the current training year (A or B) as our in-person training will discuss that year's sub-topic. What follows are the required training materials for four years' worth of training.

Sub.Level	Subject	Year A	Year B
1.1	<b>Gospel I (Foundations)</b> Year A: Gospel Centrality Year B: Trusting & Treasuring the Bible	<a href="#">The Prodigal God</a> , by Tim Keller	(1) Two Videos: <a href="#">Is the Bible we have what the original authors even wrote?</a> by Wes Huff; <a href="#">Where Did the Bible Come From?</a> by Tim Mackie (2) Short Video: <a href="#">How do we know the New Testament Canon?</a> By Gavin Ortlund (3) <a href="#">Why Trust the Bible?</a> By Greg Gilbert
2.1	<b>Biblical Theology I</b> Year A: Seeing the Whole Bible Year B: Enjoying the Whole Bible	Watch <a href="#">The Good News Story</a> video series – read and work through the entire study guide booklet (treat the digging deeper videos as optional).	(1) Booklets: <a href="#">Hermeneutics</a> and <a href="#">The Law Speaks</a> by Murray McLellan (2) Audio: <a href="#">What is Biblical Theology?</a> (Part 1 required, remainder optional)
3.1	<b>Doctrine I</b> Year A: Grace Documents Year B: Systematic Theology	(1) Grace Fellowship's <a href="#">Doctrinal Emphasis</a> (2) Our Grace Fellowship <a href="#">Constitution</a>	<a href="#">Christian Beliefs: Twenty Basics Every Christian Should Know</a> by Wayne Grudem
4.1	<b>The Christian Life I</b> Year A: The Church Year B: Gender & Sexuality	<a href="#">Total Church</a> by Tim Chester and Steve Timmis	(1) TGC Essay: <a href="#">Humanity as Male and Female</a> by Claire Smith (2) Your Choice of Biography: <a href="#">Gay Girl, Good God</a> by Jackie Hill Perry <b>or</b> <a href="#">Transformed</a> by Kyla Gillespie
5.1	<b>Gospel II</b> Gospel Transformation	<a href="#">You Can Change</a> by Tim Chester (chapters 1-6 required, remaining chapters optional)	<a href="#">Gospel Fluency</a> by Jeff Vanderstelt (Parts 1, 3-4 required, remaining chapters optional).
6.1	<b>Biblical Theology II</b> New Covenant Theology	(1) <a href="#">New Covenant Theology</a> booklet by Murray McLellan (2) <a href="#">Abraham's Four Seeds</a> by John Reisinger ( <a href="#">free ecopy</a> )	<a href="#">But I Say Unto You</a> by John Reisinger ( <a href="#">free ecopy</a> )
7.1	<b>Doctrine II</b> Year A: Complementarianism Year B: God's Sovereignty	(1) Videos: <a href="#">Complementarian discussion panel</a> ; and <a href="#">How to Understand Biblical Complementarianism</a> (2) Kevin DeYoung's <a href="#">Men and Women in the Church</a>	(1) <a href="#">Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God</a> by J.I. Packer (2) Video: <a href="#">Doctrine Explained: Sovereignty</a> by For the Gospel
8.1	<b>The Christian Life II</b> Year A: Communion with God Year B: Suffering	Your Choice of Book: <a href="#">Prayer</a> by Tim Keller <b>or</b> <a href="#">A Praying Life</a> by Paul Miller	<a href="#">Walking With God Through Pain and Suffering</a> by Tim Keller

## LEVEL 2 (i.e., next two years of an internship)

Sub.Level	Topic	YEAR A	YEAR B
1.2	<b>Gospel I (Foundations)</b> Year A: Gospel Centrality Year B: Trusting & Treasuring the Bible	<a href="#">Deeper</a> by Dane Ortlund	(1) Chapters 5-6 of <a href="#">What It Means to Be Protestant</a> by Gavin Ortlund (2) <a href="#">Bible Matters</a> by Tim Chester
2.2	<b>Biblical Theology I</b> Year A: Seeing the Whole Bible Year B: Enjoying the Whole Bible	(1) <a href="#">Biblical Theology</a> by Nick Roark and Robert Cline (2) <a href="#">Biblical Theology Journal</a> chapters 2 (Beale), 9 (Martin), 12 (Ortlund).	(1) <a href="#">Enjoying Jesus's Bible</a> by Jason DeRouchie (2) Sessions 1-2 of the Seminar: <a href="#">The Second Coming</a>
3.2	<b>Doctrine I</b> Year A: Grace Documents Year B: Systematic Theology	(1) Grace Fellowship's <a href="#">Philosophy of Ministry</a> (2) Video: <a href="#">What is Gospel-Centered Ministry?</a> by Tim Keller	Finish watching and making notes on the Seminar: <a href="#">The Second Coming</a>
4.2	<b>The Christian Life I</b> Year A: The Church Year B: Gender & Sexuality	<a href="#">Love Your Church</a> by Tony Merida	<a href="#">God and the Gay Christian? A Response to Matthew Vines</a> by the Faculty of Southern Seminary
5.2	<b>Gospel II</b> Gospel Transformation	<a href="#">Counsel From the Cross</a> , by Elise Fitzpatrick and Dennis Johnson	(1) <a href="#">The Freedom of Self-Forgetfulness</a> by Tim Keller (2) Series: <a href="#">Preaching to the Heart</a> (sessions 1-2 required, remaining sessions optional).
6.2	<b>Biblical Theology II</b> New Covenant Theology	<a href="#">Tablets of Stone</a> by John Reisinger ( <a href="#">free ecopy</a> )	<a href="#">The Law of Christ</a> by Charles Leiter ( <a href="#">specific chapters tbd</a> )
7.2	<b>Doctrine II</b> Year A: Complementarianism Year B: God's Sovereignty	(1) Videos: <a href="#">Why is TGC Complementarian?</a> (2) <a href="#">TGC article</a> (3) <a href="#">9Marks Journal: Complementarianism</a> (parts 2-3 required, remaining articles optional).	<a href="#">5 Booklet series on TULIP</a> by John Reisinger
8.2	<b>The Christian Life II</b> Year A: Communion with God Year B: Suffering	<a href="#">Enjoying God</a> by Tim Chester	<a href="#">God's Grace in Your Suffering</a> by David Powlison

**Additional Recommended Reading in Appendix 1**

**Commitments**

Before God and each other, we commit ourselves to fulfilling the elements of this agreement. As an intern of Grace Fellowship, I will attempt to keep the terms of this agreement and am willing to withdraw at any time if I am not able to fulfill the commitment as an intern.

**Intern's signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mentor's signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix 1: Additional Training Material

If you have completed *all* materials for Levels 1 & 2 for the current month, see the following:

### Level 3 Materials

Sub.Level	Topic	YEAR A	YEAR B
1.3	<b>Gospel I (Foundations)</b> Year A: Gospel Centrality Year B: Trusting & Treasuring the Bible	<a href="#">The Gospel: How the Church Portrays the Beauty of Christ</a> by Ray Ortlund	(1) Booklet: <a href="#">Why Trust the Bible?</a> By Greg Gilbert (click "full text") (2) <a href="#">The Doctrine of Scripture: An Introduction</a> by Mark Thompson
2.3	<b>Biblical Theology I</b> Year A: Seeing the Whole Bible Year B: Enjoying the Whole Bible	(1) Essay: <a href="#">Biblical Theology</a> (2) 3-Part Audio Lectures: <a href="#">What is Biblical Theology?</a> (3) Video: <a href="#">What is Biblical Theology and Why Do We Need It?</a> by G.K. Beale	Seminar: <a href="#">Daniel's Prophecy of the 70 Weeks</a> (ebook notes)
3.3	<b>Doctrine I</b> Year A: Grace Documents Year B: Systematic Theology	<i>Acts29 Booklets:</i> <a href="#">Theological Clarity</a> <a href="#">Disciple-Making</a> <a href="#">Maturity</a> <a href="#">Missional Lifestyle</a> <a href="#">Ability to Teach</a> <a href="#">Leadership</a>	The Gospel Coalition Essays: <a href="#">The Trinity</a> <a href="#">Original Sin</a> <a href="#">The Deity of Christ</a> <a href="#">The Humanity of Christ</a> <a href="#">The Death of Christ</a> <a href="#">Faith and Works</a> <a href="#">Views of the Millenium</a> + 2 others of your choice
4.3	<b>The Christian Life I:</b> Year A: The Church Year B: Gender & Sexuality	<a href="#">What is a Healthy Church?</a> by Mark Dever (Dever has multiple books with this title. Ensure you read the linked version.) <b>Or</b> <a href="#">What Church Can Be</a> by Matt Kruse	Choose whichever biography you didn't read in B4.1 <a href="#">Gay Girl, Good God</a> by Jackie Hill Perry <b>or</b> <a href="#">Transformed</a> by Kyla Gillespie
5.3	<b>Gospel II</b> Gospel Transformation	<a href="#">How Does Sanctification Work?</a> By David Powlison	<a href="#">Side by Side</a> by Ed Welch <b>Or</b> <a href="#">Speaking the Truth in Love</a> by David Powlison
6.3	<b>Biblical Theology II:</b> New Covenant Theology	<a href="#">Christ From Beginning to End</a> by Stephen Wellum	(1) Essay: <a href="#">Progressive Covenantalism &amp; New Covenant Theology</a> by Stephen Wellum (2) <a href="#">What is New Covenant Theology?</a> An Introduction By A. Blake White
7.3	<b>Doctrine II</b> Year A: Complementarianism	(1) Audio: <a href="#">What Does God Think of Women?</a>	<a href="#">Predestination: An Introduction</a> by Andrew Naselli

	Year B: God's Sovereignty	(2) <a href="#">Mere Complementarianism</a> by Denny Burk <b>Or</b> <a href="#">God's Design for Women: In an Age of Gender Confusion</a> by Sharon James (Parts 1, 3-5)	
8.3	<b>The Christian Life II</b> Year A: Communion with God Year B: Suffering	Whichever of these two that you did not read in level A8.1: <a href="#">Prayer</a> by Tim Keller <b>or</b> <a href="#">A Praying Life</a> by Paul Miller.	<a href="#">Someone I Know is Grieving</a> by Ed Welch <b>Or</b> <a href="#">Suffering: Gospel Hope</a> by Paul Tripp