

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 or in another area in our Sunday gatherings.
- 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 on page 4 and following) in the order given in this document. Once levels 1-3 are complete, 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 book reading 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 15 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; Redemption*
- **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.

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 _____

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

Interns must make notes on materials & submit book reviews as marked below in preparation for training sessions.

Sub.Level	Subject	Year A	Year B
1.1	Gospel I (Foundations) Year A: Gospel Centrality Year B: Trusting & Treasuring the Bible	The Prodigal God , by Tim Keller [Submit book review]	(1) Two Videos: Is the Bible we have what the original authors even wrote? by Wes Huff; Bible Origin Tim Mackie (2) Sermons: Big Questions #4 and The Sufficiency of Scripture [Submit review of Big Questions #4 sermon]
2.1	Biblical Theology I Year A: Seeing the Whole Bible Year B: Enjoying the Whole Bible	Watch The Good News Story video series – read and work through the entire study guide booklet (treat the digging deeper videos as optional).	(1) Booklets: Hermeneutics and The Law Speaks by Murray McLellan
3.1	Doctrine I Year A: Grace Documents Year B: Systematic Theology	(1) Grace Fellowship's Doctrinal Emphasis (2) Video: What is Gospel-Centered Ministry? by Keller	Christian Beliefs: Twenty Basics Every Christian Should Know by Wayne Grudem
4.1	The Christian Life I Year A: The Church Year B: Gender & Sexuality	Total Church by Tim Chester and Steve Timmis [Submit book review]	(1) Humanity as Male & Female by Claire Smith (2) Your Choice of Biography: Gay Girl, Good God by Jackie Hill Perry or Transformed by Kyla Gillespie [Submit book review]
5.1	Gospel II Gospel Transformation	You Can Change by Tim Chester (chapters 1-6 required, remaining chapters optional) [Submit book review]	Gospel Fluency by Jeff Vanderstelt (Parts 1, 3-4 required, remaining chapters optional). [Submit book review]
6.1	Biblical Theology II Year A: New Covenant Theology Year B: Redemption	(1) New Covenant Theology booklet by Murray McLellan (2) Abraham's Four Seeds by John Reisinger (free ecopy) [Submit book review]	The Atonement by Jeremy Treat [Submit book review]
7.1	Doctrine II Year A: Complementarianism Year B: God's Sovereignty	(1) Videos: Complementarian discussion panel ; and How to Understand Biblical Complementarianism (2) Kevin DeYoung's Men and Women in the Church [Submit book review]	(1) Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God by J.I. Packer [Submit book review] (2) Video Sermon: God's Sovereignty – a soft pillow for a weary head by Murray McLellan
8.1	The Christian Life II Year A: Communion with God Year B: Suffering	(1) Your Choice of Book: Prayer by Tim Keller or A Praying Life by Paul Miller [Submit book review]	Walking With God Through Pain and Suffering by Tim Keller [Submit book review]

LEVEL 2 materials

Sub.Level	Topic	YEAR A	YEAR B
1.2	Gospel I (Foundations) Year A: Gospel Centrality Year B: Trusting & Treasuring the Bible	<u>Deeper</u> by Dane Ortlund [Submit book review]	<u>Bible Matters</u> By Tim Chester [Submit book review]
2.2	Biblical Theology I Year A: Seeing the Whole Bible Year B: Enjoying the Whole Bible	(1) <u>Biblical Theology</u> by Nick Roark and Robert Cline [Submit book review] (2) <u>Biblical Theology Journal</u> chapters 2 (Beale), 9 (Martin), 12 (Ortlund).	(1) <u>Enjoying Jesus's Bible</u> by Jason DeRouchie [Submit book review] (2) Sessions 1-2 of the Seminar: <u>The Second Coming</u>
3.2	Doctrine I Year A: Grace Documents Year B: Systematic Theology	(1) Our Grace Fellowship <u>Constitution</u>	(1) Finish watching & making notes on the Seminar: <u>The Second Coming</u> (2) The Hermeneutics of Eschatology by Sam Storms [Ask Murray for pdf]. (Chapter one from <i>Kingdom Come</i>)
4.2	The Christian Life I Year A: The Church Year B: Gender & Sexuality	<u>Love Your Church</u> by Tony Merida [Submit book review]	1) Video – <u>Should only Men be Pastors</u> – Gavin Ortlund 2) Choose whichever biography you didn't read in B4.1 <u>Gay Girl, Good God</u> by Jackie Hill Perry or <u>Transformed</u> by Kyla Gillespie [Submit book review]
5.2	Gospel II Gospel Transformation	<u>Counsel From the Cross</u> , by Elise Fitzpatrick and Dennis Johnson [Submit book review]	(1) <u>The Freedom of Self-Forgetfulness</u> by Tim Keller (2) Series: <u>Preaching to the Heart</u> (sessions 1-2 required, remaining sessions optional).
6.2	Biblical Theology II Year A: New Covenant Theology Year B: Redemption	<u>The Law of Christ</u> by Charles Leiter (Ch. 1-10 required. Finish entire book if possible.) [Submit book review]	<u>The Cross of Christ</u> (chapters 1-9) by John Stott [Submit book review]
7.2	Doctrine II Year A: Complementarianism Year B: God's Sovereignty	(1) Videos: <u>Why is TGC Complementarian?</u> (2) <u>TGC article</u> (3) <u>9Marks Journal: Complementarianism</u> (parts 2-3 required, other articles optional).	<u>5 Booklet series on TULIP</u> by John Reisinger
8.2	The Christian Life II Year A: Communion with God Year B: Suffering	<u>Enjoying God</u> by Tim Chester [Submit book review]	<u>God's Grace in Your Suffering</u> by David Powlison [Submit book review]

LEVEL 3 and Additional Recommended Reading in Appendix 1

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 (tentative work in progress)

Sub.Level	Topic	YEAR A	YEAR B
1.3	Gospel I (Foundations) Year A: Gospel Centrality Year B: Trusting & Treasuring the Bible	<i>The Gospel: How the Church Portrays the Beauty of Christ</i> by Ray Ortlund	(1) Booklet: <i>Why Trust the Bible?</i> By Greg Gilbert (click “full text”) (2) <i>The Doctrine of Scripture: An Introduction</i> by Mark Thompson
2.3	Biblical Theology I Year A: Seeing the Whole Bible Year B: Enjoying the Whole Bible	(1) <i>Tablets of Stone</i> by John Reisinger (free ecopy) (Chapters 1-9) (2) <i>But I Say Unto You</i> By John Reisinger (free ecopy)	Seminar: <i>Daniel’s Prophecy of the 70 Weeks</i> (ebook notes)
3.3	Doctrine I Year A: Grace Documents Year B: Systematic Theology	(1) Grace Fellowship’s <i>Philosophy of Ministry</i> (2) Grace Fellowship’s Partnership Doc	TBD
4.3	The Christian Life I: Year A: The Church Year B: Gender & Sexuality	<i>What is a Healthy Church?</i> by Mark Dever (Dever has multiple books with this title. Ensure you read the linked version.) Or <i>What Church Can Be</i> by Matt Kruse	<i>God and the Gay Christian? A Response to Matthew Vines</i> by the Faculty of Southern Seminary
5.3	Gospel II Gospel Transformation	<i>Side by Side</i> by Ed Welch	<i>Speaking the Truth in Love</i> by David Powlison
6.3	Biblical Theology II: Year A: New Covenant Theology Year B: Atonement	<i>What is New Covenant Theology?</i> An Introduction By A. Blake White	<i>The Cross of Christ</i> by Murray McLellan
7.3	Doctrine II Year A: Complementarianism Year B: God’s Sovereignty	(1) Audio: <i>What Does God Think of Women?</i> <i>God’s Design for Women: In an Age of Gender Confusion</i> by Sharon James (Parts 1, 3-5)	Sovereignty of God in Providence And Sovereignty of God in Prayer – both booklets by John Reisinger. [Submit a single book review]
8.3	The Christian Life II Year A: Communion with God Year B: Suffering	Whichever of these two that you did not read in level A8.1: <i>Prayer</i> by Tim Keller or <i>A Praying Life</i> by Paul Miller.	<i>Someone I Know is Grieving</i> by Ed Welch Or <i>Suffering: Gospel Hope</i> by Paul Tripp