



CHRISTIAN  
EDUCATION  
2022

# CCC'S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION PROGRAM

## Overview: Why Christian Education?

Jesus' invitation to discover life in Him is much more than securing your place in heaven, it's an invitation into an abundant life that provides the peace, joy, and purpose we all seek. CCC's leadership believes that becoming a disciple of Jesus isn't just for a select few, but all who call Jesus their Lord and Savior. Our role as leaders is to equip and prepare God's people for works of service in His kingdom and help them grow in their understanding and relationship to Him.

Our Christian Education Program is intended to equip you to become a healthy and effective disciple of Jesus. Our call to follow Him includes living out His mission and learning how to love God and our neighbors as He does. Our courses and group studies not only will help increase your knowledge and understanding of God and His word, but how to take new steps in your faith journey with Jesus.

The program is designed to help you grow as a complete disciple. While all our courses are Bible-based, they cover the various aspects of our human nature that are meant to be transformed by the gospel of Jesus. The Great Commandment challenges us to love God with our heart, mind, soul, & strength. As Jesus' disciples, we are to continue growing more like Him in love by learning to take on His heart, mind, soul, & strength... to imitate his way of life.

Because of this, we have three course areas to help us develop and grow in the various aspects of our life as followers. They are meant to equip us to become more Jesus-centered in our beliefs, our perspective on the world, and helping us align our habits and behaviors with the way of Jesus. Our goal is to see each person taking a variety of these three areas to grow holistically... becoming mature in our heart, mind, and souls like Jesus.

## BIBLICAL LITERACY

We believe that the Bible is a unified story that leads to Jesus. These courses are designed to equip you with the skills and knowledge on how to read, understand, and interact with the Bible in a personal way. While some courses will cover key books of the Bible, many are designed to help you understand the larger story, key themes and key imagery that are often missed by modern readers. The better we can understand the Bible and its message, to better we can know our God who loves us.

## WORLDVIEW

Each person has a particular lens by which they view the world. It is colored and shaded by the wisdom, stories, and experiences of our family, friends, and society. While those lenses help us navigate the world around us, they often distort the true nature of world. As disciples of Jesus, we are called to see the world from his perspective. He challenges us to see things from God's kingdom first. Our worldview courses will cover aspects such as developing a kingdom mindset instead of accepting our culture's lenses as well as studying core doctrines of the Christian faith that should shape our understanding of the nature of our universe.

## SPIRITUAL HABITS

Following Jesus should change how we lead our lives. What are the key habits that should be normal for a Jesus-centered life? What spiritual practices help me grow in my relationship with Jesus and help me impact the people around me? We break this area down into three aspects: Spiritual Formation (our habits that help us grow and connect to God and others), Disciple-Making (how to have spiritual conversations and invite others to life with Jesus), and Life Stage (what to expect as we traverse the various seasons of life: parenting, marriage mentoring, mid-life changes, caring for aging parents, being single, etc.)

# BIBLICAL LITERACY CLASSES

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## THE STORY OF THE BIBLE

This course presents the narrative of God's purposeful interaction within human history as presented throughout the Bible. God's word is not just a collection of various stories and instructions from God, it reveals God's desire to partner with humanity in creating a beautiful world and community rooted in His love and wisdom. When this relationship is broken by sin, God works to restore the loving community He created. This is the beautiful story from Genesis to Revelation.

## HOW TO READ THE BIBLE

This course will teach you how to understand the Bible's message and appreciate its unique literary design. The Bible is an intricate work of art that tells one unified story that leads to Jesus. But it isn't like any other book you have read, it's actually a collection of books... each with its own purpose. And to make it more interesting, the Bible isn't even written in one particular literary style. Different genres communicate ideas or feelings better than others. Learn how to effectively discern God's message when reading the Bible.

## KEY BIBLICAL THEMES

Within the biblical story, there are major core ideas that run from their first appearance in Genesis through the entire narrative of the Bible. Understanding these key themes is really important for understanding the unified story that leads to Jesus. Even though the Bible tells lots of stories and employs a variety of literary genres, these key themes are the threads that connect God's purposes throughout the story leading to faith in Jesus.

## THE GOSPEL OF MARK

Most scholars believe the Gospel of Mark was the first written account of Jesus' life and ministry. Mark writes with a powerful and energetic literary style, full of drama, mystery, and color. He provides a unique portrait of Jesus, with a special insight into who Jesus was and what he came to accomplish. Jesus is the Servant-Messiah; becoming the anointed king not by conquering the Roman legions, but by suffering and dying as an atoning sacrifice for sins.

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# WORLDVIEW CLASSES

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## GETTING TO KNOW THE CICEROFAM

Are you new to CCC? Then this class is for you! You will learn about who we are as a church, what we believe, what is most important to us, and how you can get connected within the Cicerofam.

## PUTTING ON A KINGDOM MINDSET: 1 DAY INTENSIVE

The calling to be salt and light in this world is a call to live out the values of the kingdom that Jesus rules over as king. When Jesus taught his disciples to pray, he invited them to take on a new perspective; praying for the kingdom of God to come on earth as it is in heaven. He challenged those who follow Him to seek first this kingdom and God's righteousness before all else, even basic desires and needs. Following Jesus as His disciple is an invitation into a new life. This course will examine the core values and priorities of Jesus and His kingdom and how we can take on the mindset of Jesus.

## UNITY & DIVERSITY OF CHRISTIAN BELIEF

The Christian landscape of belief and practice is incredibly diverse. One of the core values of our church tradition is to seek unity on essential beliefs, to give liberty on nonessential beliefs (non-salvation issues), and to do all things in love. This course will examine what all orthodox Christians agree on and the diversity of belief and practice we can learn from other Christians from various backgrounds.

## CIVIL DISCUSSIONS & CIVIL ENGAGEMENT

In our society today the political and social atmosphere is contentious. We are quick to categorize people who disagree with us on certain topics as "those" people. Our civic engagement takes on an us vs. them mentality. But Scripture instructs us that "our fight is not against flesh and blood." In this social climate, many Christians wonder if we should just avoid civic engagement if we cannot do so with civility. The good news is it is possible to disagree on political or social issues and still love our neighbors. Join us as we study the way of Jesus and how we can still engage our culture in the political and social realm and honor those who disagree with us as image bearers of God.

# WORLDVIEW CLASSES

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## BASIC: WE ARE THE CHURCH

This course is the second part of the BASIC series that discusses the foundational elements and identity of the church. Francis Chan reminds us that church isn't a building nor a regular event we attend. The church is a people. We are the church. Through four teaching videos and reflecting on the study guide, we will discuss and study what makes the church unique and the meaningful practices and habits that make the church what it is.

## FAITH, SEXUALITY & GENDER

One of the most difficult questions for the church today is how we should respond to the changing views on marriage, sexuality, and gender in our culture and world. While we are called to love our neighbors and respect those different than us, our ultimate authority on faith and morality comes from God's word, the Bible. What does the Bible actually say and teach about sexuality and gender and how should we engage our culture with this issue with authenticity and love without compromising our faith in Jesus?

## WHEN HELPING HURTS

When Helping Hurts is a paradigm-forming contemporary classic about poverty alleviation and ministry to those in need. Emphasizing the poverty of both heart and society, this course exposes the need that every person has and how it can be filled. Through this course you will understand that poverty is much more than simply a lack of financial or material resources and that it takes much more than donations and handouts to solve the problem of poverty. While this course exposes past and current development efforts that churches have engaged in which unintentionally undermine the people they're trying to help, its central point is to provide proven strategies that challenge Christians to help the poor empower themselves. When Helping Hurst catalyzes the idea that sustainable change for people living in poverty come not from the outside-in, but the inside-out.

# SPIRITUAL HABITS CLASSES

SF=Spiritual Formation, DM=Disciple making, LS=Life Stage

## DEVELOPING HEALTHY SPIRITUAL RHYTHMS (SF)

Believing in Jesus is more than agreeing with spiritual truths about Jesus, it's about following a new way... the way of Jesus. Finding life in Jesus isn't just a future hope, but a present reality as well. This course will help you learn foundational spiritual habits to help you develop intimacy and connection to God and the Holy Spirit. Discover a deeper prayer life, keys to reading the Bible, personal worship, and other spiritual practices.

## EMOTIONALLY HEALTHY SPIRITUALITY (SF)

You can't be spiritually mature while remaining emotionally immature. Most people avoid conflict in the name of Christianity; ignore anger, sadness, and fear; use God to run from God; and live without boundaries. However, the Bible teaches us to integrate emotional health and the spiritual practice of slowing down and quieting your life to experience a firsthand relationship with Jesus. This course will help you learn to become your authentic self; break the power of the past; let go of power and control; surrender to your limits; stop to breathe by practicing rest and Sabbath; learn new skills to love well; and love Christ above all else.

## LEARNING TO LISTEN TO THE HOLY SPIRIT (SF)

The most beautiful gift that God gives us is the presence of His Spirit. All those who have faith and life in Jesus are promised the gift of the Holy Spirit within them. Our responsibility is to learn to listen to the Spirit as He seeks to guide and instruct us in following Jesus. The Holy Spirit isn't just a power to yield or it or thing to pray to, but someone we must learn to develop a relationship with. Like any relationship, it takes time to build trust and learn to listen to the voice of the Spirit. Learn from some seasoned followers of Jesus how to grow your relationship with the Holy Spirit.

## HOW TO HAVE SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS (DM)

For many people, it isn't a lack of desire to share their faith with their friends that holds them back, but most people simply say they don't know how. In this course we will share how to develop their friendships and move from having surface level conversations, to meaningful and spiritual conversations.

# SPIRITUAL HABITS CLASSES

SF=Spiritual Formation, DM=Disciple making, LS=Life Stage

## WALK LIKE JESUS (DM)

Is it even possible to walk as Jesus walked? Well, there's only one way to find out! Join us to learn about how Jesus modeled life. More than just highlighting various aspects of Jesus' life, we'll examine the broad scope of who He is, helping us understand how the life of Christ should transcend our busy, 21st-century lifestyles. With a practical approach, daily lessons in this 10-week study touch on foundational elements of Jesus' life. Walk Like Jesus will not only provide you with a wealth of biblical knowledge on Jesus' life, but it will also challenge you to follow after Christ.

## LIFE AS A SINGLE ADULT (LS)

Sometimes in the church being a single adult can feel like you are on the outside looking in. Whether you are single by choice or because of life's difficult circumstances, it can be hard to find community when you feel like your surrounded by married people. The truth is both Jesus and Paul hold singleness in high regard, but single adults still need community, companionship, and love too. Join this group as we encourage one another and help each other find our path with Jesus and His church.

## CARING FOR AGING PARENTS (LS)

For many adults, one of the Life Stages that catches them off guard is suddenly needing to become the primary caregiver for their parent. For our whole lives, they were strong and independent, and we looked to them for advice and wisdom. What do we do when the roles are reversed? How do we prepare ourselves for the coming reality? How will this new responsibility impact our friendships, our availability in other areas of life, and our sense of autonomy and freedom? Join us as we explore the challenges, benefits, and realities of caring for our aging parents. We'll talk about how to start getting prepared and how our spiritual habits and support circles are likely to change.

# TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULES

**Biblical Literacy** **WorldViews** **Spiritual Habits**

**Spiritual Habits Sub-Categories:**

Spiritual Formation (SF), Disciple-Making (DM), Life Stage (LS)

## 1ST QUARTER

The Gospel of Mark (continued)

Woven

Key Bible Themes

Putting on a Kingdom Mindset

Getting to know the Cicerofam

How to have Spiritual Conversations (DM)

Walk like Jesus (Women's group) (DM)

## Time Frame

Sun. Current-January

Sun. January-April

Sun. February-March

Sat. February 19

Sun. January

Not Sunday AM

Wed. January-March

## 2ND QUARTER

How to read the Bible

Unity & Diversity of Christian Belief

BASIC: We are the church

Developing Healthy Spiritual Rhythms (SF)

Life as a single Adult (LS)

Walk Like Jesus (DM)

## Time Frame

Sun. March 6th-April 24th

Sun. May

Sun. April-May

May-June

June

Sun. April 3rd- June 26th

## 3RD QUARTER

Survey of the New Testament

Psalms

Getting to know the Cicerofam

Civil Discussions within Civic Engagement

Emotionally Healthy Spirituality (SF)

Caring for Aging Parents (DM)

## Time Frame

Sat. September

August-September

August

August-September

August-September

September

## 4TH QUARTER

Revelation zoomed out

The Story of the Bible

Faith, Sexuality & Gender

When Helping Hurts

Listening to the Holy Spirit (SF)

## Time Frame

Sat. October 1st & 8th

Sun. October

TBD

Sun. Oct. 16th-Nov. 20th

Sun. Oct. 2nd-Nov. 13th

# SIGN UP SHEET

If you know which classes you would like to take already, please circle each one you would like to take and turn this sheet into the church office. If you would prefer to sign up online, scan the QR code at the bottom of the page. Please note that class times are all subject to change.

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The Gospel of Mark (continued)

Woven

Key Bible Themes

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Getting to know the Cicerofam

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Revelation zoomed out

The Story of the Bible

Faith, Sexuality & Gender

When Helping Hurts

Listening to the Holy Spirit (SF)

YOUR NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

Scan me if you prefer to sign up online!

