Course: **Work, Money, and Mission**

November 2021, Alpha Omega International College

Richard Lamb, MA

DESCRIPTION: This course is designed to look at Biblical passages covering the headline topics of work, money and mission. We will build a Biblical theology of work and money using passages from Genesis to the Gospels and Paul’s letters We will build . The course will model the use of scripture study as a source of insight into ministry, specifically in discipleship, ministry vision, equipping and empowerment, organizational development and change.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: The course seeks the following goals for each student: (1) *Cognitive:* theoretical knowledge relating to a Biblical world view on work and money, and the affect that understanding has on an understanding of mission; (2) A*ffective:* deepened appreciation for both biblical and contemporary opportunities and challenges of work, and the potential for idolatry and ministry fruitfulness of money; (3) *Skills*: capacity to use scripture to teach and lead individuals, groups, teams and congregations toward more healthy understandings of work and money in the accomplishment of their own calling and God’s global mission.

COURSE FORMAT: The course will meet for ten 2.5-hour sessions, with work prepared before and after the class time. Much of the discussion-based class time will be spent in inductive scripture study led by the instructor, incorporating small group discussion and large group discussion formats. …

REQUIRED READING: 400 pp. of required reading, plus numerous Scripture passages as per the course schedule.

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**Biblical Texts:** We will have Bible passages to prepare for each class period. Read over each passage several times, looking for questions, problems, and the answers to any study questions given. Come to class prepared to discuss in small and large groups what you have found.

ASSIGNMENTS AND ASSESSMENT:

1. **Book Report:** Students will write a five-page report on selected readings for the course. Summarize the main points of each author briefly. Then, comment on what you found most helpful, what resonated with your context and what did not, areas of disagreement with the readings, etc. Share at least two things you will try to do differently as a result of doing this reading. (25%).
2. **Post-COVID Ministry In-Class Case Study:** Students will prepare a written case study that succinctly describes a current or recent scenario to illustrate a typical COVID-related (or other crisis-related) ministry issue in the life of your church, organization or ministry. Include questions for discussion and lead the discussion. Follow the model presented in class for good case study development. The final case study (1/2 page), and a 1 page self evaluation and reflection will be turned in at the end of term. (25%)
3. **Congregational or Organizational Use of a Biblical Character Study in teaching, training, or preaching:** Students will prepare an in-depth study of an Old Testament or New Testament leader (other than Jesus) used or referenced in class, or one of your own choosing, for use in a congregational or organizational teaching or training setting. The study should help your congregation, team, or small group consider some insights regarding post-COVID ministry challenges and opportunities. The paper should include an analysis of your congregational setting, specifically answering the question “Why did I choose this leader or passage for our congregation to learn from today?” A four-page exegetical paper and a one page reflection and self evaluation will be submitted after the presentation. (40%)
4. Attendance at all class sessions is mandatory, as is enthusiastic participation in class discussions and exercises. Participation in class Whatsapp discussions will also count toward attendance grade. Grade will be reduced for unexcused absences or persistent lateness. (10%)

ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES:

* Case Study for In-Class Discussion due the sixth day of class for use in class, November 25.
* Remaining assignments due the last week of term.

**Course Schedule:**

* **Dates** January 3, 10, 17, 24; February 7, 14, 21, 28; March 7, 14
* **Mondays, 8:00PM-10:30PM**

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| **Day** | **TOPIC** | **Biblical Leader and Passages Studied** |
| 1  Nov 16 | Leading Change When You Know What to Do | Vision, Recruitment, Enlistment. **Read (13) Kim and Mauborgn, “Tipping Point Leadership.”** |
| Nehemiah: Sketch 22 Prayer and Planning |
| Nehemiah: Sketch 161 Recruitment and Resentment |
| 2  Nov 17 | Opposition to Change | **Read (12) Kegan and Lahey, The Real Reason People Won’t Change** |
| Nehemiah: Sketch 162 Opposition to Change. |
| Nehemiah: Sketch 163 Leaders Share and Lift Burdens. |
| 3  Nov 22 | The Work of Leadership | **Read (11) Heifetz and Laurie, The Work of Leadership, and Cormode (6) Multi-Layered Leadership.** |
| Moses and Peter: Sketch 61 Delegation (Exodus 18 and Acts 6) |
| Amos: Sketch 67 The Plumbline and the Chaplain (Amos 7) |
| 4  Nov 23 | Leading Change When You Don’t Know What to Do | Values, process, discernment. **Read Crouch (8) and Blanchard (3).** |
| Hezekiah: Sketch 157 The Great Restoration |
| Hezekiah: Sketch 158 The Great Passover |
| 5  Nov 24 | Leadership Process | **Read Evener (9) and Christiansen and Overdorf (5).** |
| Hezekiah: Sketch 159 God’s Commitment to his Name |
| Jehoshaphat: Sketch 155 Leading When You Don’t Know What to Do |
| 6  Nov 25 | Understanding God’s Hidden Role | What in the World is God Doing? **Read Bolsinger (4) *Canoeing the Mountains*.** |
| Habakkuk: Sketch 140 How Long Oh Lord? |
| Habakkuk: Sketch 141 Mocking Riddles and Worshipful Silence  (Sketch 142 In Wrath Remember Mercy) |
| 7  Nov 26 | Plan B Leadership | **Read Argyris (1) and Garvin (10).** |
| Paul Plan B Leadership: Sketch 56 Creative Evangelism |
| Sketch 57: Plan B Ministry Vision, Sketch 58: Chaos, Discernment and Plan B Ministry. Sketch 60: Leadership without Authority |
| 8  Nov 29 | In Class Case Studies | **Read Bennis and Thomas (2) and Coyle (7).**  Present and Discuss Case Studies from Students’ ministry/professional contexts in small groups with large group summary discussion. |
| 9  Nov 30 | In Class Case Studies | Present and Discuss Case Studies from Students’ ministry/professional contexts in small groups with large group summary discussion. |
| 10  Dec 1 | Final Topics | Elisha: Sketch 154: Calamities Large and Small, 2 Kings 6 |
| Summaries and Take-Aways |
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| ?? | Final Due Date | End of Term all remaining assignments due. |