

LIDLAW COLLEGE
Te Wananga Amorangi

401.515 Formation
Course Assessment and Delivery Outline

Campus: CDL/Bishopdale Theological College
Tutors: Liz Riley, Kelly Morgan

Semester 2, 2015
NQF Level 5, 15 credits

CONTENT OVERVIEW

FORMATION ...

... IN CHRIST (Weeks 1-4):

1. Knowing God in Christ
2. Knowing ourselves in Christ
3. Embracing the gospel of Christ
4. Becoming more like Christ

... THROUGH COMMUNITY (Weeks 5-8):

5. Praying the Trinity
6. Embracing the gifts
7. Engaging the challenges
8. Managing the risks

... FOR THE WORLD (Weeks 9-12)

9. Reflecting the glory of God: "Human beings fully alive!"
10. Sharing the brokenness, holding the hope
11. Participating in the work of the Spirit through our gifts, passions and personality
12. Knowing our calling. Spiritual gifts.

ASSESSMENT TASKS AND DUE DATES

1. Formation Group participation

| | |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Learning outcomes: | 1, 2, 3 |
| Date due: | N/A |
| Weighting: | 15% |
| Length: | 12 x 1 hour |

These informal group sessions form an integral part of the overall learning and formational aims of the course. Formation occurs, and is tested, in the context of community. Preparation for the groups sessions will involve addressing the 'G-tivity' questions in the Learning Guide.

Assessment Criteria

- Respectful interaction with other group members
- Healthy self-awareness
- Punctuality, regular attendance
- Evidence of diligent preparation for group times

- Constructive participation in the group process

2. Reflection 1: What's shaped your foundations?

Learning outcomes: 2, 3 Instructions applying to both reflections:
 Due date: Sunday, end of semester week 5, 11.55 pm
 Weighting: 25%
 Length: 2000 words

These "Reflection" assignments provide you with the opportunity to engage with the material we have been covering in class and to apply it to your own experience.

Given that they are reflections rather than essays, the emphasis is personal and applied. You don't need to do a lot of extra reading or research, although what you write should clearly demonstrate that you have kept up with the required readings and the course guide notes (see criterion *a* below). There are two extremes to avoid in these assignments: (i) writing in a very scholarly, impersonal style that tells the marker very little of your own personal experience and shows little self-awareness (see criterion *b*), and (ii) simply telling the story of your own experience ('testimony' style) without engaging in thoughtful reflection on this experience or intelligently applying the course content to your situation (see criteria *c* and *d*).

If you refer to any of the readings in your reflection, please use footnotes and supply a bibliography, following the usual Laidlaw guidelines for written assignments.

Note: What you write in your reflections may cover quite personal matters. Be assured that the marker will keep whatever you write confidential. You may wish to alter names etc, so as to respect the privacy of others.

Instructions for the first reflection: 'What's shaped your foundations?'

In weeks 1 – 4 you will have looked at issues that are foundational to your spiritual formation, namely: (i) who God is for you, (ii) your own sense of identity, (iii) your understanding of the good news, and (iv) the spiritual disciplines that help you to grow in Christlikeness. In this assignment you are asked to look back on your past experience and to reflect on the influences that have shaped your thinking in these areas. How was your image of God shaped? What influenced how you saw/see yourself? Was your faith shaped more in a 'wells' or 'fences' direction, and how? What spiritual disciplines have been most helpful (or unhelpful!) in your growth as a Christian? Remember that you need to do more than simply tell the story, you also need to write about *how* these past events and influences have affected your experience of the spiritual life. You may like to write about each area separately, or they may be very interconnected so that you need to discuss them together. Either approach is fine. You should also give a brief indication of where you are now in relation to each of these areas – what are the significant challenges or breakthroughs that you are experiencing in each of these areas?

Assessment Criteria

- Clear understanding of course topics and readings
- Healthy self-awareness in relation to spiritual development and practices
- Appropriate personal application of course topics
- Depth and clarity of written presentation

3. Reflection 2: Finding your fit

Learning outcomes: 2, 3
 Due date: Sunday, end of week 12, 11.55pm
 Weighting: 20%
 Length: 1200 words (approx)

This reflection assignment is based on Chapters 1 – 3 of the text book used for the latter part of the course, i.e. Alistair Mackenzie, Wayne Kirkland & Annette Dunham, *SoulPurpose: Making a Difference in Life and Work*. Christchurch: NavPress, 2004.

The written part of your assignment will consist of your responses to the exercises outlined in Chapter 3, pages 44 – 53. The instructions are given clearly on these pages, but please note the following points before you start:

- i. Before starting on the exercises, please read through Chapters 1 and 2, and the beginning of Chapter 3, so that you understand the purpose of what you are asked to do.
- ii. Although the main heading is “Your Autobiography”, this is *not* a repeat of the life stories which you are asked to tell in your Spiritual Formation Group (as explained in Module 7).
- iii. In Step I of the exercises (pages 44 and 45), you are asked to think about “the most satisfying events of your life” and “satisfying and enjoyable achievements”. The things you come up with don’t have to be huge world-changing achievements or peak experiences. They can be anything you did that gave you a real sense of enjoyment and fulfilment, even if they may have seemed to others to be quite ordinary or small things.
- iv. It’s hard to give exact guidance on how many words you should write on each area, other than “just write enough to clearly answer the question”. Here is a very rough guide for what might be appropriate for each main section. You won’t be penalised for writing a bit more or less than this, but aim to be concise – someone has to mark all this!

STEP I This step involves thinking and making your own notes -not for handing in.

STEP II Here is where your written assignment that you hand in starts. For the 7 achievements you describe (using headings 1 – 4 for each one) you might write about 500 words *in total*.

STEP III Please note that what you write here applies to the 7 achievements taken as a whole, not to each one separately. For each of the 5 headings (1. Abilities, 2. Subject Matter etc) make some notes (not for handing in), and then provide 5 summaries, as indicated under “Your Fingerprint” (pages 52 and 53). These summaries should be around 100 words each.

- v. Finish your assignment by writing around 150 – 200 words about what this exercise has shown you or confirmed to you about yourself.

Assessment Criteria

- Clear understanding of course topics and readings
- Healthy self-awareness in relation to spiritual development and practices
- Appropriate personal application of course topics
- Depth and clarity of written presentation

4. Essay

Learning outcomes: 2, 3
Due date: Friday, end of exam week 2, 11.55pm
Weighting: 40%
Length: 2500 words (includes 250 word personal application)

Essay guidelines

Choose one of the following topics and write a 2500 word essay which will count for 35% of your final grade.

Whereas the reflection assignments are primarily your personal response to aspects of the course, this essay is expected to be a more objective discussion on your chosen topic, following normal academic essay guidelines. Please note the grading criteria carefully.

Having said that, you are asked to include a brief section of personal application at the end of the essay of around 250 words in length (this is counted in the 2500 word limit). In this application section you should comment on your own experience of the issues you have written about

The bibliographies given for each topic are not intended to be definitive. You may find some of the books more helpful than others, and hopefully you will find other books or articles not mentioned there that are helpful also. It is expected that you should make significant use of at least 5 books and/or articles.

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Assessment Criteria

- Breadth of reading as evidenced in the essay
- Clear understanding of reading material
- Skills of analysis and synthesis
- Overall depth of treatment
- Originality and creativity of approach
- Presentation, style and construction of essay
- Correct use of footnotes and bibliography
- Demonstration of appropriate self-awareness in the application

TOPIC 1: “Perhaps it seems terribly obvious to say that my images of God and my willingness to grow in those images will determine how I pray and how I will deal with what happens after I pray. Based on my personal experience and my years of priestly ministry, I am convinced that the difficulties many people face in prayer cannot be resolved until they face the images of God on which their prayers are based. Those images have very radical implications for how the praying person sees himself or herself and others.” (Pat McCloskey, *Naming Your God: The Search for Mature Images*, 103-104)

In the light of these claims, discuss the importance of a person’s image of God in relation to their personal spiritual life as a whole.

Ideas for bibliography:

Barry, W. *God and You: Prayer as Personal Relationship*. New York: Paulist, 1987. (pp.27-39)

Huggett, J. *The Smile of Love*. London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1990. (pp.136-157)

Hughes, G. *God of Surprises*. London: Darton Longman & Todd, 1985. (pp.26-39)

McCloskey, P. *Naming Your God: The Search for Mature Images*. Notre Dame, IND: Ave Maria Press, 1991. (Ch. 4-5)

McFarland, I. *The Divine Image: Envisioning the Invisible God*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2006.

Ryan, D. & J. *Recovery From Distorted Images of God*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1990.

Thomas, C. *Will the Real God Please Stand Up: Healing Our Dysfunctional Images of God*. New York: Paulist, 1991.

Yancey, P. *Reaching for the Invisible God*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000.
(pp. 135-146)

Yancey, P. *What's So Amazing About Grace?* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1997.
(pp. 19-56)

TOPIC 2: Dallas Willard argues that the church today faces an urgent challenge: "... local congregations, the places where Christians gather on a regular basis, must resume the practice of making the spiritual formation of their members into Christlikeness their primary goal, the aim which every one of its activities serves." (From the Foreword to James C. Wilhoit, *Spiritual Formation as if the Church Mattered*).

Willard is responding to the fact that many people currently look outside their local churches for help in developing their personal spiritual lives. Evaluate his suggestion that churches should make "the spiritual formation of their members into Christlikeness their primary goal", and outline ways in which they might work toward this goal.

Ideas for bibliography:

Bock, D. L. "New Testament Community and Spiritual Formation". In *Foundations of Spiritual Formation*, ed. P. Pettit, 103-117. Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 2008. BV4511 FOU

Calhoun, A. *Spiritual Disciplines Handbook: Practices That Transform Us*. Downer's Grove: InterVarsity, 2005. BV4501.3 CAL

Deison, P. V. "Spiritual Formation Through Small Groups." In *The Christian Educator's Handbook on Spiritual Formation*, ed. K. O. Gangel & J. C. Wilhoit, 269-279. USA: Victor Books, 1994. BV4511 CHR

Demarest, B. *Satisfy Your Soul: Restoring the Heart of Christian Spirituality*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 1999. Ch. 7. BV4501.2 DEM

Gangel, K. O. "Spiritual Formation Through Public Worship." In *The Christian Educator's Handbook on Spiritual Formation*, ed. K. O. Gangel & J. C. Wilhoit, 111-129. USA: Victor Books, 1994. BV4511 CHR

Holmes, P. & Williams, S. *Becoming More like Christ: A Contemporary Biblical Journey*. Carlisle: Authentic, 2007. BV4501.3 HOL

Jamieson, A. *A Churchless Faith: Faith Journeys Beyond Evangelical, Pentecostal & Charismatic Churches*. Wellington: Philip Garside Publishing, 2000. BR1483.N45 JAM

Peterson, E. *Christ Plays in Ten Thousand Places: A Conversation in Spiritual Theology*. London: Hodder & Stoughton, 2005, section III. BV4501.3 PET

Wilhoit, J. *Spiritual Formation as if the Church Mattered*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2008. BV4511 WIL

Willard, D. *The Spirit of the Disciplines: Understanding How God Changes Lives*. San Francisco:

Harper & Row, 1988.

TOPIC 3: Most Christians approach decision making with certain assumptions concerning the will of God and with particular ideas about how to discern God's will. Some believe God has a detailed, perfect plan for their lives, which they must discover and obey if their lives are to be blessed by God. Others believe that God has revealed all the guidance we need in the Bible, and that beyond this God gives us freedom to choose our path in life.

Explain what implications these contrasting views might have for the Christian life, and put the case for what you regard as the most helpful approach to decision making and the will of God. (It may be one of the approaches outlined above, or it may be something different).

Ideas for bibliography:

Adam, P. *Guidance*. Bramcote, Nottingham: Grove Books, 1988.

Friesen, G. *Decision Making and the Will of God: A Biblical Alternative to the Traditional View*. Portland, OR: Multnomah, 1980. Lonsdale, David.
Listening to the Music of the Spirit: The Art of Discernment. Notre Dame, Ind.: Ave Maria Press, 1992. Pages 49-66. (Moodle)

Mackenzie, A. et al. *Soul Purpose: Making a Difference in Life and Work*. Christchurch: NavPress NZ, 2004. (Ch. 2)

Ramesh, R. *Soul Vision: Ensuring Your Life's Future Impact*. Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2004.

Runcorn, D. *Choice, Desire and the Will of God*. London: SPCK, 2003.

Smith, G. *Listening to God in Times of Choice: The Art of Discerning God's Will*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1997.

Tidball, D. *How Does God Guide?* London: Collins, 1990.

Waltke, B. *Knowing the Will of God: For the Decisions of Life*. Eugene, OR: Harvest House, 1998.

Willard, D. *In Search of Guidance: Developing a Conversational Relationship with God*. Venture, CA: Regal, 1984.

LEARNING HOURS

401.515 is a 15 credit course consisting of 150 learning hours. The assignment tasks and learning hours are as follows.

| Elements of Learning | Hours |
|---|------------------|
| Core tutorial periods (12 x 1.5 hours) | 18 hours |
| Self-directed reading and reflection | 30 hours |
| Pre- reading and preparation for classes (2 hours/week) | 24 hours |
| Formation group participation (12x1.0 hrs) + preparation (12x0.5 hours) | 18 hours |
| Reflection 1: What's shaped your foundations? | 18 hours |
| Reflection 2: Finding your fit | 12 hours |
| Essay | 30 hours |
| Total | 150 hours |

NB Total class and group hours for this course are 2.5 hours per week. Full attendance at class and group periods is expected. Unsatisfactory attendance (less than 80%) may result in failure of the course.

Although this guideline regarding learning hours is not intended to be applied rigidly, it should help ensure a balanced workload.

TEXTBOOKS

There is no textbook for this course.

All students will be provided with CDL course materials via CD ROM and access to the BTC 401.515 Formation course area in Moodle.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Highly Recommended Texts

Foster, Richard J. *Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth*.
2nd ed; London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1989.

_____ *Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home*. London:
Hodder & Stoughton, 1992.

_____ *Streams of Living Water*. San Francisco: Harper SanFrancisco, 1998.

Holmes, Peter R. and S. B. Williams. *Becoming More like Christ: A Contemporary Biblical Journey*.
Carlisle: Authentic, 2007.

Alistair Mackenzie, Wayne Kirkland & Annette Dunham, *Soul Purpose: Making a Difference in Life and Work*. Christchurch: Navland Press, 2004

Peterson, Eugene. *Christ Plays in Ten Thousand Places: A Conversation in Spiritual Theology*.
London: Hodder & Stoughton, 2005.

Pritchard, Sheila. *The Lost Art of Contemplation: Deepening Your Prayer Life*. Bletchley: Scripture Union, 2003.

Smith, James B. and L. A. Graybeal. *Spiritual Formation Workbook: Small-Group Resources for Nurturing Christian Growth*. 2nd ed; New York: HarperCollins, 1999.

Wilhoit, Jim. *Spiritual Formation as if the Church Mattered: Growing in Christ Through Community*.
Grand Rapids: Baker, 2008.

Willard, Dallas. *The Spirit of the Disciplines: Understanding How God Changes Lives*. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1988.

_____ *Renovation of the Heart: Putting on the Character of Christ*.
Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2002.

General Bibliography

Spiritual Theology:

Gillett, David. *Trust and Obey: Explorations in Evangelical Spirituality*. London: Darton, Longman & Todd, 1993.

McGrath, Alister. *Christian Spirituality*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1999.

Richards, Lawrence. *A Practical Theology of Spirituality*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1987.

Smith, Karen E. *Christian Spirituality*. London: SCM, 2007.

Toon, Peter. *What is Spirituality and is it for me?* London: Daybreak, 1989.

Webber, Robert E. *The Divine Embrace: Recovering the Passionate Spiritual Life*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2006.

See also the 'Spirituality' series of *Grove Books*, which has many excellent brief booklets dealing with historical and contemporary aspects of Christian spirituality.

Spiritual life and spiritual disciplines:

Barry, William A. *God and You: Prayer as a Personal Relationship*. New York: Paulist Press, 1987.

Calhoun, Adele A. *Spiritual Disciplines Handbook: Practices That Transform Us*. Downer's Grove: InterVarsity, 2005.

Duncan, Bruce. *Pray Your Way*. London: DLT, 1993.

Dyer, Phil. *Encountering the Still Point*. Oxford, NZ: Ricoh, 2000.

Fowke, Ruth. *Personality and Prayer: Finding and Extending the Prayer Style that Suits Your Personality*. Guilford: Eagle, 1997. Gangel, Kenneth O. And J. C. Wilhoit. *The Christian*

Houston, James. *The Transforming Friendship*. Oxford: Lion, 1989. Huggett, Joyce. *Listening to God*. London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1986.

_____ *Learning the Language of Prayer*. Sutherland NSW: Albatross, 1996.

_____ *Open to God*. London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1989.

_____ *The Smile of Love*. London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1990.

Jamieson, Alan. *Called Again: In and Beyond the Deserts of Faith*. Philip Garside Publishing, 2004.

MacDonald, G. *Ordering Your Private World*. Nashville: Oliver-Nelson, 1985.

- _____ *Restoring Your Spiritual Passion*. Nashville: Oliver-Nelson, 1986.
- Nouwen, Henri J. *The Way of the Heart*. London: Darton, Longman and Todd, 1981.
- _____ *In the Name of Jesus: Reflections on Christian Leadership*. New York: Crossroad, 1989.
- _____ *Life of the Beloved: Spiritual Living in a Secular World*. London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1993.
- _____ *The Return of The Prodigal Son: A Story of Homecoming*. New York: Image Books, 1993.
- Ortberg, John. *God is Closer than You Think*. Grand Rapids; Zondervan, 2005.
- _____ *The Life You've Always Wanted: Spiritual Disciplines for Ordinary People*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1997.
- Tacey, David J. *The Spirituality Revolution : The Emergence of Contemporary Spirituality*. Sydney: HarperCollins, 2003.
- Willard, Dallas. *Hearing God: Developing a Conversational Relationship with God*. Downers Grove: Inter-Varsity, 1983.
- _____ *The Divine Conspiracy: Rediscovering Our Hidden Life in God*. San Francisco: HarperCollins, 1998.
- _____ *The Spirit of the Disciplines*. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1988.
- Yaconelli, Michael. *Dangerous Wonder*. Colorado Springs: Navpress, 1998.
- _____ *Messy Spirituality: God's Annoying Love for Imperfect People*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002.
- Yancey, Philip. *The Jesus I Never Knew*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995.
- _____ *What's So Amazing About Grace?* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1997.
- _____ *Reaching for the Invisible God*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000.

See also the *Exploring Prayer* series, including:

- Jim Borst. *Coming to God*. Guilford: Eagle, 1992.
- Angela Ashwin. *Patterns, not Padlocks*. Guilford: Eagle, 1992.
- Michael Mitton. *The Sounds of God*. Guilford: Eagle, 1993.
- Heather Ward. *Streams in Dry Land*. Guilford: Eagle, 1993.
- Joyce Huggett. *Finding God in the Fast Lane*. Guilford: Eagle, 1993.