



EFFECTIVE CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

BUILDING FAITH TO MOVE MOUNTAINS

COURSE SYLLABUS



MODULE I - WHY IS MINISTRY STRUGGLING?

Lesson 1 - [The Mountains of Ministry](#)

Mountains always appear in Scripture as places of divine encounter. We Christians have built a mountain of ministry experiences over the past few decades, but it's not leading to the transformation we see in Scripture.

We'll explore the nature of this "Mountain of Ministry" by looking at the story of one young adult. Catherine was involved in every youth program her parish had to offer, yet fell away after graduating high school. Why?

Lesson 2 - [Institutionalized by Ministry](#)

We'll take a deeper look into Catherine's story by using a movie as an explanatory image. In *Shawshank Redemption*, a prison inmate was institutionalized by his experience in the prison. After all, what is a prisoner without the walls of a prison?

Are we doing the same thing in ministry? Are we creating young people who, rather than being members of the Body of Christ, are little more than program participants?

Lesson 3 - [Why Do People Leave the Church?](#)

Attachment theory is a psychological model that helps explain why some relationships are secure, and some are not. For centuries, Christians have spoken about the Church as our mother, so perhaps attachment theory can help explain why some young people don't have a true relationship with the Church.

Has ministry been missing out on what young people actually need, leaving them feeling unseen and unsafe?



MODULE II - MAKING A MINISTRY MAP

Lesson 1 - You Are Here

To draw and use a map, we first need to know where we are. And to fully understand the needs and challenges of our secular age, we need to understand what that means. That's where we'll begin.

Lesson 2 - What is Faith?

We want to instill faith in the lives of young people. This our ultimate ministry objective. But what is faith? And how can we instill it if we're not clear on what we're working towards? We'll explore this question by looking at two important figures from Church history: Saint Paul the Apostles and Saint Ignatius the Bishop and Martyr.

Lesson 3 - The Goals of Effective Christian ministry

After we learn about our contemporary secular age the the sort of faith that we want to cultivate in the lives of young people, we need to understand the needs that young people actually have in their lives. These needs inform the goals of effective Christian ministry. Because if the Church, as our mother, isn't meeting these needs then it should be no surprise why young people fall away from Faith.

Lesson 4 - What's in the Way?

We may be able to clearly articulate the goals of effective Christian ministry, but we need to be honest about the challenges that stand in our way. The good news is that we can reframe each of these challenges as an opportunity for effective ministry. The challenges in



our way actually become fertile ground that will allow us to cultivate faith, by the grace of God.

Lesson 5 - [How to Climb the Mountain](#)

At this point our ministry map is complete; we know where we are, we know where we need to go, and we know what's standing in our way. Now all that's left is to explore how we can invite young people to climb the mountain to which we're pointing; now the mountain of ministry stuff that hasn't been leading to divine encounter, but rather a mountain that will lead people to an experience of God.

MODULE III - [THE PRACTICES OF EFFECTIVE MINISTRY](#)

Lesson 1 - [The Practices of Faith](#)

Young people need to know Jesus, but they struggle with doubt. We can address this doubt with practices that cultivate faith. This lesson will explore different ways you can apply the practices of faith in your home or community.

Lesson 2 - [The Practices of Self-Emptying](#)

Young people need to know who they truly are, but they struggle with self-preoccupation. We can address this doubt with practices that cultivate self-emptying. This lesson will explore different ways you can apply the practices of self-emptying in your home or community.



Lesson 3 - [The Practices of Fellowship](#)

Young people need to belong to the full community of the Church, but they struggle with loneliness. We can address this doubt with practices that cultivate fellowship. This lesson will explore different ways you can apply the practices of fellowship in your home or community.

Lesson 4 - [The Practices of Discipleship](#)

Young people need to be empowered to make a difference, but they struggle with choice paralysis. We can address this doubt with practices that cultivate discipleship. This lesson will explore different ways you can apply the practices of discipleship in your home or community.

Lesson 5 - [The Practices of Testimony](#)

Young people need to be equipped with the teachings of the Christian faith, but they struggle with an experience of the world that is flat and suggests that the faith doesn't matter. We can address this doubt with practices that cultivate testimony. This lesson will explore different ways you can apply the practices of testimony in your home or community.

MODULE IV - [FREE BONUS MODULE](#)

This Bonus Module contains lessons and step-by-step checklists on a variety of helpful ministry skills. Don't feel any pressure to watch every lesson; you may not need some of the skills we'll present here. Just take what you need.

If you have any suggestions on a lesson for this Bonus Module, please let us know! We're going to continue updating this Bonus Module for the life of the course.