

**American Baptist Churches of New York
State Lay Study Program**

CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP AND EDUCATION

A Brief Course Description

This course is designed to enable the student to understand how one teaches to develop/grow disciples within the congregation. The student will learn educational theories as well as how to apply them in the church.

Expected Outcomes

Students will be able to fully understand their roles and duties as teachers and learners within their local churches.

Students will have examined the biblical and theological basis of Christian education and will have developed their own perspective on Christian education in the church setting.

Students will be familiar with the various elements of Christian education, including but not limited to: the purpose and models of church educational ministry, aspects of teaching and learning, curriculum available to church teachers, where to find resource materials for classes, creating lesson plans, and developing class presentations.

Students will be able to:

- Understand the biblical and theological basis of Christian education.
- Understand roles of teachers and learners, including how people of various ages learn, how spirituality is developed, the importance of spiritual gifts, teaching and learning in specialized ministries within the church, and creating a safe educational environment.
- Locate various resources (websites, books, curriculum, and technology) needed for conducting education by the church.
- Create a lesson plan and the present the lesson.

Class Expectations

Students will read the assigned readings and participate in class discussions. Students taking the course for credit will attend at least eight out of ten classes.

Students who are taking the course for credit will create and hand in the written assignments

and/or complete projects designed by the teacher, which may include paper/s on particular subjects, oral presentations, PowerPoint presentations, class lesson plans, etc.

The expectation is there will be 20 hours of class time. The course is usually set up as ten classes which are two hours long. A short break may be included in the middle of the class time. Classes may be designed to include a variety of learning experiences, including but not limited to: interactive lectures, presentations, and group discussions. Modifications to this structure may be done at the discretion of the instructor.

Suggested Resources

Introducing Christian Education – Foundations for the Twenty-first Century by Michael Anthony. Baker Publishing, 2001.

The Philosophy of Christian Religious Education by Jeff Astley. Religious Education Press, 1994.

The Power of Small Groups in Christian Education by Harley Atkinson. Evangel Publishing House, 2002.

The Nuts and Bolts of Christian Education – Practical Wisdom for Teachers & Leaders by Delia Halverson. Abingdon Press, 2000.

Other Resources (a starting place)

For Scripture: Bible Hub, Bible Gateway

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