Spiritual Leadership Program (S.L.P.)

Overview

September, 2025

WHAT IS THE SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM?

Building on the principal command given in 2 Timothy 2:2, the *Spiritual Leadership Program* is a three-year training course for men designed to lay a biblical foundation for a lifetime of spiritual leadership.

> "And the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also." —2 Timothy 2:2

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM?

The **Great Content (Scholarship)** of Scripture is studied in order to prepare men to be and to make **Great Commandment (Relationship)** and **Great Commission (Discipleship)** disciples for the glory of God. As disciple-makers these men are challenged to become "the makers of disciple-makers" and fulfill the **Great Commitment (Leadership/Eldership/Partnership)**.

Stage #1: BELIEVE
- Relationship
- Worship

Stage #2: GROW
- Fellowship
- Membership

Stage #3: SERVE
- Stewardship
- Discipleship

Stage #4: LEAD
- Scholarship
- Leadership

Stage #5: LEAD LEADERS
- Eldership
- Partnership

WHO IS THIS PROGRAM DESIGNED FOR?

While every Christian is commanded to make disciples only some Christians will be gifted in and desirous of becoming leaders in the church. This program is designed for men who meet the following minimum qualifications:

1. A desire to lead others spiritually (not simply to make disciples but to make disciple-makers)
2. A member of Hope Bible Church who has attended for at least one year
3. Currently serving in ministry at Hope Bible Church
4. If married, your wife is 100% on board and your home life is in order

5. Agreement with Hope Bible Church's doctrinal statement
6. Clear commitment to do the work by being faithful, available, and teachable
7. Passing of an application process and entrance exam

WHAT COURSES ARE TAUGHT?

The *Spiritual Leadership Program* consists of twelve courses (called modules) designed to help men become proficient in the purposes stated above.

Spiritual Leadership 1 (Year 1)**: BIBLICAL & THEOLOGICAL STUDIES**
- Systematic Theology
- Biblical Theology

Spiritual Leadership 2 (Year 2)**: HISTORICAL & HOMILETICAL STUDIES**
- Hermeneutics
- Handling the Old Testament
- Handling the New Testament
- History of the Church
- History of the Canon
- Homiletics (with a primary focus on Expository Preaching)

Spiritual Leadership 3 (Year 3)**: LEADERSHIP & SHEPHERDING**
- Biblical Leadership in the Family
- Biblical Eldership in the Church
- Biblical Discipleship
- Biblical Counseling

WHAT IS THE STRUCTURE OF THE PROGRAM?

Spiritual Leadership 1
Year One is focused on establishing a biblical and theological foundation for spiritual leadership. Reading, study, and memorization of important terms and concepts characterizes much of this year.

Spiritual Leadership 2
Year Two is focused on rightly handling the Word of God. As a shepherd, you must know the Word (Knowledge of the Old & New Testaments), interpret the Word (Hermeneutics), live the Word (Church History), defend the Word (Canon), and teach the Word (Homiletics).

Hermeneutics: *How Do I Interpret the Text?*

Handling the Word: *How Do I Love, Learn, and Live the Text?*

History of the Church: *How Have Others Interpreted, Lived, and Defended the Text?*

History of the Canon: *What Is the Text?*

Homiletics: *How Do I Teach the Text?*

Spiritual Leadership 3

Year Three of the Spiritual Leadership Program is focused on family and pastoral ministry, emphasizing a man's character, leadership, Word-centeredness, calling, convictions, competency, and chemistry in preparation for a life of spiritual leadership.

Special attention is given to developing spiritual leaders in the home as well as implementing the character qualities found in 1 Timothy 3:1–7, Titus 1:5–9, and 1 Peter 5:2–3. The objective is to develop men as spiritual leaders by honing their skills in leading, discipling, teaching, and counseling within the home and in the church. The first semester will focus on leadership in the home and the second semester will focus on leadership in the church.

HOW ARE THE COURSES TAUGHT?

To become a spiritual leader it is not enough to "know" but rather you must be able to "do." Therefore, this program is based on the **socratic/tutorial method** rather than a lecture model. The bulk of each evening is dedicated to "doing" theology in an interactive/discussion-oriented format.

The tutorial is the heart of the program. Participants prepare ahead of time (via reading/listening, and studying) for a lively class discussion. The discussion is part oral exam, part group critique, and part student presentation.

WHAT IS THE ATMOSPHERE/TONE OF A TYPICAL EVENING?

Casual, Christ-Centered, Joyful, Serious-Minded, Intense, Mind-Blowing, Demanding, Stretching, Exacting, Exhausting, Eye-Opening, Brotherly, Tough-Love, Accountable, No Place to Hide, On-the-Spot, Exposed, and Encouraged.

The leaders are tasked with understanding the subject matter sufficiently that they can guide students through engaging questions and conversations rather than lectures.

Students in this course have, on average, already attended numerous lectures on theology and the Bible in their Christian lives. However, they lack what we aim to provide—a practical approach to "doing theology," which involves synthesizing and implementing all their knowledge, learning, and future understanding.

WHAT ARE THE DESIRED MINISTRY OUTCOMES FOR THE MEN WHO GRADUATE?

1. **Every Man Grow in the Foundations of Spiritual Leadership:**

   - Systematic Theology
   - Biblical Theology
   - Hermeneutics and Homiletics
   - Handling the Old and New Testament
   - History of the Church and Canon
   - Biblical Leadership
   - Biblical Teaching
   - Biblical Discipleship
   - Biblical Counseling

2. **Every Man Affirm Their Full Agreement with HBC's Core Convictions:**

   While "good and godly" Christians may disagree about some of the following beliefs and still have fellowship, full agreement with the following beliefs is required for leadership at Hope Bible Church.

   SCRIPTURE
   - Literal-Grammatical-Historical Interpretation
   - Expository Preaching
   - Biblical Counseling

   GOD'S PLAN FOR THE AGES
   - The Gospel
   - The Doctrines of Grace
   - Dispensationalism
   - Cessationism
   - Young Earth

   CHURCH
   - Elder-rule
   - Complementarian
   - Protestant/Evangelical
   - Baptistic

3. **Every Man Pursue at Least One Leadership Opportunity at HBC:**

   - Ministry Coordinator
   - Ministry Teacher
   - Disciple-maker
   - Counselor
   - Small Group Leader
   - Equipping Classes Teacher

4. <u>Some Men</u> Pursue Leadership Opportunities:

- Eldership
- Pastoral Ministry
- Evangelism
- Missions
- Church Planters
- Equipping Class Teacher

WHEN AND WHERE DOES THE PROGRAM MEET?

Year 1 meets Tuesday evenings, 6:00–9:00 pm at HBC (dinner included).
Year 2 meets Tuesday evenings, 6:00–9:00 pm at HBC (dinner included).
Year 3 meets Tuesday evenings, 6:00–9:00 pm at HBC (dinner included).

WHAT IS THE BIBLICAL BACKGROUND FOR THIS PROGRAM?

Jesus commanded us to make disciples and He showed us how to do it through His training of the 12:

- Jesus took 3 years with these men
- He taught topically
- He asked over 100 different questions
- He discipled one-on-one and in a group
- He had 1-3-12-70-120-5000
- He spent a lot of time with them
- They ate together
- They worshipped together
- They learned to pray
- They watched Jesus minister
- They received a final commission
- He sent them on mission
- He prayerfully chose the men to train

WHAT IS THE WORKLOAD LIKE FOR THE PROGRAM?

It is challenging. It will stretch you. It is a life changing, eternal investment. Most men find that it takes 10–15 hours a week outside of class to handle the workload.

WHO ARE THE INSTRUCTORS?

The overall program is led by Pastor Mike Jarvis along with strategic visits from our other pastors.

WHAT IS THE COST OF TUITION AND MATERIALS?

The Spiritual Leadership Program is free for all men accepted into the program. The cost of all meals, materials and textbooks are a small price to pay for the strategic

investment in Hope Bible Church's future accomplished through raising up biblically qualified men for spiritual leadership.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR THE PROGRAM?

Applications for fall admission are currently being accepted. The first 12 qualified applicants, not simply the first 12 applicants, will be accepted. The application process is as follows:

1. **Application:** Click on the following link to access the online application: https://hopebiblechurch.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/563/responses/new

2. **Interview:** Once your application has been received, a follow up interview will be conducted with you and your spouse (if married).

3. **Approval:** Once your application has been approved you will receive a notification via email along with a schedule for the *Spiritual Leadership Program, Year 1*.