

The Joy of Connecting

Greetings, friend!

In this column two years ago, fresh in my first days as director of online education at BeADisciple.com, I wrote “In a new season of leadership, our team will work to connect you with new opportunities to grow in faith, in knowledge, and in the hope of Christ, who loves us. I’m looking forward to connecting with you soon!”

And CONNECT we have... many of you wrote me in those early days to share about how a BeADisciple course had impacted your life through new insight, new friendship, or new skill. You’ve answered surveys and taken time to complete evaluations when courses end, helping us to see places where we have room to grow. On behalf of our team, thank you for connecting and learning with us here at BeDisciple.com!

And speaking of growth, the Institute for Discipleship has a brand-new strategic plan that will guide our steps and our vision for the future. With input from key stakeholders including our board, our staff, and members of the Southwestern College community, I look forward to being part of the good work that God is doing in us and through us as we provide Christian resources and education that builds disciples and strengthens ministries. When you’re ready to connect to ministry training, spiritual nourishment, deep study, or all three – we’re ready to meet you where you are. Join us!

Peace,



Lori Richey

Lori Richey
Director of Online Education, Institute for Discipleship

Check Out These Scriptural Literacy Courses Beginning in July and August

During 2025 BeADisciple.com will place special emphasis on courses that focus on scriptural literacy. For more information on this theme, visit our web page [here](#).

July 7 - 25: **Leading Bible Study: Biblical Interpretation**

July 14 - 25: **Old Testament Through a Different Lens: Torah and Beyond**

July 28 - Aug. 9: **Biblical Storytelling I**

August 25 - September 5: **Jesus' Use of Spiritual Gifts**

Enroll Now in These New BeADisciple.com Online Courses Beginning in July and August



Leading Worship (New Course) July 14 - 25

Would you feel confident to lead worship if the pastor was ill? Does your church or district need Lay Servants to be regular or occasional worship leaders? Imagine confidently assisting with Holy Communion!

The “Leading Worship” course will use daily readings and discussion concerning the basic pattern of Christian worship and the dynamics of energy, presence, and flow. You will receive feedback on your informed practice and demonstration of leading worship, and will create four videos of yourself conducting worship. Through the process you will be under the guidance of an experienced BeADisciple instructor competent in worship leadership, study, and teaching online courses, with the goal of improving your competence and confidence as a worship leader.

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**Breaking the Bridge to the Junk in Your Trunk (New Course)
August 4 - 15**



It lies there, mostly hidden from view, stalling spiritual progress, weighing down hopes and dreams. What is this heaviness that keeps us from the peace God intends? Simply put, it is “junk” — issues we carry in our hearts that have not been dealt with appropriately. This junk can poison our relationships, steal our joy, and damage our future. This course will help you identify the bitterness, hurts, and offenses that hinder your peace. It provides help as you clear the “junk in your trunk” while traveling to the peace you long for. If you want to learn how to jettison emotional

baggage, this is the course for you. Give yourself two weeks to learn valuable tools that can be used now or in the future. Let go of the past to live your best life.

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***Preaching and Reaching:
Communicating Across Generational
Divides (New Course)***
August 18- 29

In an era when age diversity in the pews has never been greater, church leaders face a unique challenge: how to effectively preach, teach, and

minister across generational lines. From the Greatest Generation (born 1901-1927) to Generation Alpha youth (born 2013-2025), each group brings different expectations, communication styles, and spiritual needs.

“Preaching and Reaching: Communicating Across Generational Divides” is designed for pastors, lay speakers, educators, and ministry leaders seeking to bridge these divides. Participants will explore the characteristics and values of the seven living generations within the church, adapt preaching and teaching methods for greater impact, and build inclusive strategies for communication and outreach. By the end of the course, learners will leave with practical skills and customizable action plans to help every generation feel heard, valued, and spiritually nurtured.

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***Jesus' Use of Spiritual Gifts (New
Course)***
August 25 - September 5

This course is for people who want to examine examples of Jesus’ use of spiritual gifts in the Synoptic gospels. The two-week course explores scripture to discover how Jesus used various spiritual gifts in his ministry, with an opportunity in the second week to investigate the learner’s own gift, all while in

a supportive community, and without a long-term commitment.

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