

Building Disciples, Strengthening Ministries

Greetings, friend!

The Christian online courses available at BeADisciple.com represent just one of three key programs of the ***Richard and Julia Wilke Institute for Discipleship (IFD)***, which was chartered in 2001. Rest assured, the BeADisciple team is hard at work on our current course offerings and the scheduling details for courses to come in 2026.



I'd also love to highlight the other two programs of the IFD, as many in our family of learners might not know of the good work we have going on!

Our sister program in the digital world is the ***BeADisciple Study App***, where you can find all of the Disciple Bible Studies that you know and love, within easy reach on your mobile device and offering easy access for you, church groups, family, and friends. In addition, an exciting pilot project is happening now on the App, with four groups of youth testing a new study on the books of Luke and Acts.

Moving to the in-person programming of the Institute for Discipleship which is based at Southwestern College in Winfield, Kansas, two programs bring people to campus that might never otherwise have the opportunity. The Visiting Scholar program gives Ph.D candidates teaching experience, connection in the world of higher education, and housing while finishing their doctoral work. The Bishop Scholars program provides generous scholarships for international students who are active in ministries in their hometowns, bringing a global perspective to our small-town learning environment. Both of these programs are ***accepting***

applications until February 2026, and I invite you to learn more and help us spread the word!

May the cooling days, falling leaves, and vibrant colors of fall bring peace to your heart.

On behalf of the staff of the Institute for Discipleship,



Lori Richey
Director of Online Education, Institute for Discipleship

Check Out These Scriptural Literacy Courses Beginning in October and November

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***.

Oct. 7 - Dec. 1: *Devotion to Jesus: The Divinity of Christ in Earliest Christianity*

Oct. 6 - 20: *Teaching Biblical Faith: Leading Small Group Bible Studies*

Oct. 20 - 31: *Abiding in Christ Together: Creating Gospel-Centric Retreats*

Oct. 27 - 31: *Biblical Women in Pentecost (Microcourse)*

Nov. 3 - 15: *Biblical Storytelling I*

Nov. 3 - 14: *Old Testament Through a Different Lens: Ketuvim/Writings*

Enroll Now in These New BeADisciple.com Online Courses Beginning in October and November



Fundraising Beyond Spaghetti Dinners and the Collection Plate (New Microcourse) October 6 - 10

This microcourse will help clergy and lay people identify possible funding sources beyond the congregation. Participants will learn how to understand the communities they serve based on data, and examine their own congregational passion to identify funding sources. An experienced fundraiser, the instructor will introduce you to tools

that could unlock additional funding opportunities, including funding sources outside the

church. She will help you look at a bigger picture of scriptural focus, collaboration, data exploration, and dreams of building the Kingdom of God.

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Clergy and Musicians as Models for Leadership (New Course) **October 6 - 24**

This three-week course is for pastors and musicians who seek to improve their shared worship ministry. It will be a time of self-reflection based on the Enneagram, a time to dialogue with each other about their God-given personality traits, and time to explore case studies and how the learners would work together to address the issues presented. You will develop strategies for interacting with personalities unlike your own, identify barriers to communication and strategies to overcome them, and develop strategies for building and maintaining supportive relationships. Whether you are looking to remedy conflicts or simply wanting to improve already-meaningful interactions, this course will enrich your ministry life.

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Let's Talk: What You Need to Know About Lay Ministry (New Microcourse) **October 13 - 17**

This microcourse is for curious laypeople who are interested in serving in their church, describing the "Ls" or roles and responsibilities of lay service. Even if you do not know what you can do, or how you fit in, you will be better informed without making a long-term commitment to a traditional course. Whether you are a layperson seeking to understand how you fit into the church ministries and missions, or a layperson discerning certification as a Certified Lay Servant Lay Speaker, or Lay Minister, this microcourse will help you understand how lay ministry roles are connected in this call to serve, and the active role laity play in the ministries and missions of the church.

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Biblical Women in Pentecost (New Microcourse) **October 27 - 31**

This course is for busy Christians who want to stay spiritually and scripturally centered during the long season of Pentecost. This microcourse provides an opportunity to focus on your



ministries, even if your calendar is crowded, while digging into the ministries of Deborah and similar biblical characters, and without the stress of a longer course commitment.

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Bridge to Surviving Grief During Holidays November 3 - 14

Sometimes life crashes in on us like a rolling wave. We think we can handle almost anything, but suddenly something happens that knocks us down. We used to stand strong and manage our next steps but now find it hard to navigate the next hour. What happened?

Losing a loved one is painful. Life will never be the same. And if that wasn't hard enough, the holidays are bearing down upon you—Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year, birthdays, anniversaries, etc. This course will empower you to navigate the holidays by helping you create a proactive plan to care for yourself, honor the one you're missing, and still love those around you. Holidays will be different now, but they can still be good.

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