

Introduction to Using the TOI Ministry Training Materials

Welcome to all ministry teachers and mentors! This introduction is for you. It should be read along with the Introduction to the Student Notes.

The process we are all engaged in is that of helping people grow in two areas: readiness to lead a ministry in a church and community, and developing a deeper walk with God and self-understanding. The TOI path for fulfilling this process of growth has three parts:

First, the students meet together each week in class with a teacher and discuss the practical steps of ministry according to the pattern of the curriculum.

Second, each student meets with a personal mentor who helps them individualize the training and then apply it to personal ministry. This goes on for 60 weeks, spread over two academic years. The class time and the mentoring time complement each other and only together can adequate application occur.

Third, the student does whatever homework is assigned for the week, usually this is reading the 4-8 page lesson for the week. If you are involved in a time frame other than two years, the teaching of the content can be compressed to about four lessons a week; however the same ministry requirements hold and may take longer than the lesson time. The student does not graduate when the lessons are complete but when the ministry has been done.

The Teacher and the Class Time

The class time should function like this:

Before each class the student reads the assigned material, including doing any embedded homework.

In class, after opening with prayer, the teacher leads a discussion of the reading for the week. This may take 15 minutes. The goal is for the teacher to be assured that the students have read the homework, understood it and retain the main points of the message. This is done by a discussion rather than a quiz.

Second, the teacher then describes a time when the point(s) of the message were implemented in his/her life. This is, in effect, a spiritual or ministry testimony. It should take no more than 10 minutes and should be very specific. The point of this testimony, each week, is to show that the material being studied is practical and is useful in building ministry.

Third, the teacher presents a case study, or potential field application, to the class for open discussion. The case may be suggested in the teacher version of the notes but in most cases the teacher must make his/her own case. This is because the case needs to be as close to the reality of the student's ministry as possible. The discussion should **not** include the teacher giving direction or making decisions as to the best way to solve the problem. The students need to find one or more answers. If there are more than six students, the teacher should divide the students into

discussion groups. The teacher helps the students keep on track and think about real, not theoretical, problems with implementing their solutions. This should take 30 minutes.

Finally, the teacher asks the students to meet in small groups to 1) pray, 2) identify a way in which the material examined can apply to their life and/or ministry, 3) brainstorm with 1-3 other people about the identified problem and the practicality of their solution, 4) pray for each other as they seek to implement this application this week. This should take 20 minutes.

The Mentor and Discipling Time

The mentor has three basic tasks:

First, to help the student grow in grace and wisdom. This is a general part of discipleship or following Christ. Listen to them, pray with them, encourage them, take them to Christ and to the Bible. This should be a part of each week's mentoring time.

Second, ask them to tell you the application they are praying about this week and offer to support them in prayer. These first two steps may take up to one hour.

Third, take them out to do ministry of evangelism and personal discipleship for two hours. In this last part there may be an opportunity to focus on the application the student desires to make. However, the point of the time for personal ministry is to learn to do multiplication ministry through evangelism and discipleship. There should be at least one evangelism opportunity each week, either with the mentor or on their own, which is then discussed with the mentor.

The focus of the messages is on learning one particular lesson for application to life and ministry each week. The title of the lesson may or may not suggest the application for that week. All the messages have been developed by Campus Crusade for Christ staff over the last 50 years. All the messages have been implemented by our faculty and training center students in Orlando, in both college campus and lay community settings. We have also used these lessons in Spanish, Chinese, and Korean contexts and received their feedback. Therefore, each message should be relevant and contemporary for both community and campus ministries.

The educational approach is to treat the learners as adults and use methods which are most effective, given the nature of adults, the biblical process of maturation in Christ, and the nature of the subject matter and its application. More material on the educational/instructional choices is available for those who wish to pursue this (sclinton@toi.edu).

If students or adjunct faculty wish to register for credit and receive a certificate at the completion of the training that option is available on our website. All of our faculty are available to help with detail questions about the curriculum, the process of teaching, and the development of lay Christians into effective multipliers. Contact us on our web site: www.toi.edu