

WSBM exists to equip God's people – head, heart, and hands – through the Word of God, helping them know Jesus Christ personally and carry on His ministry.

COURSE: WSBM 301 Called to Care: Foundations of Caregiving

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Ross Johnston (drjjrossj@gmail.com)

DATE: Tuesdays | October 1 – November 26, 2024 | 7:00-9:00pm | 3030

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Who cares? This question often surfaces in modern life and language. Who should care? If it is true that Christians should care, how are we to go about it? This course explores the Biblical foundations for caregiving. Topics range from the ministry of the caregiving to the individual skills and equipping for caregiving, as well as the benefits and dangers in caregiving. We will also learn how to balance our caregiving and find direction in the midst of need. Come discover how God is calling you to be a caregiver in various aspects of your life.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completing the course, students will be able to:

- Understand the Biblical basis of caregiving and our duty to respond
- See how God has uniquely gifted them to care for others
- Identify the empowerment of the Holy Spirit in them, causing a desire to serve
- Discover and commit to arenas of caregiving where they will invest their lives ministering to others

REQUIRED READING

Kopp, Herb. *Soul Care: Caregiving in the Church* (Winnipeg, MB: Kindred Productions, 2001.)

Kok, James R. *The Miracle of Kindness: Changing the World, One Act at a Time* (Bloomington, IN: WestBow Press, 2011).

Called to Care Handbook (provided through Willingdon Church).

RECOMMENDED READING

Gaultiere, Bill and Kristi. *Journey of the Soul: A Practical Guide to Emotional and Spiritual Growth* (Baker Publishing Group, 2021).

Richards, Lawrence O. and Gib Martin. *A Theology of Personal Ministry: Spiritual Giftedness in the Local Church* (Grand Rapids: Ministry Resources Library, Zondervan Publishing House, 1981).

COURSE PROGRAM

Date	Topic	Assignments Due
October 1	Biblical Foundations for Caregiving	
October 8	<i>No Class – Prayer Summit Week</i>	
October 15	The Call to Caregiving	
October 22	Equipping the Caregiver	
October 29	Who Needs Care?	
November 5	Skills of the Caregiver	
November 12	The Reluctant Caregiver	
November 19	Finding Balance in Caregiving	
November 26	Outcomes of Caregiving	
November 27		All Assignments

STUDENT ASSIGNMENTS

1. Attendance (25%)

Self-report that all weekly material was read and classes were attended, including participation in breakout groups.

Due: November 27, 2024

2. Textbook Readings and Report (25%)

Read Herb Kopp's 60-page book, *Soul Care: Caregiving in the Church* and James Kok's 228-page book, *The Miracle of Kindness*. Write a 500-word response on how these books have personally impacted your understanding of care giving ministry for your life. Include how this may change your future service.

Due: November 27, 2024

3. Self-Analysis (25%)

Describe an experience in caregiving that you engage in during the course. Ensure that you protect the identity and confidentiality of the persons involved (eg. use pseudonyms). Describe the circumstances, the identified needs, and your intended plan of action. What Biblical mandate were you trying to fulfill? After the experience was over, analyze how well you think you did, whether you met your objective(s), and how you could have improved your response. Include any indication afterward that the person(s) felt cared for by your actions.

Due: November 27, 2024

4. Personal Inventory (25%)

Complete the *Modified Houts Spiritual Gifts Questionnaire* (provided). Additionally, consider using another inventory tool(s) to assess what your ministry giftedness and strengths may be. Write a 300-word response on your results, including a summary and reaction. Include what kind(s) of caregiving ministry might fit your specific blend of gifting.

Due: November 27, 2024