

**Note:**

**Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form.**

## MOODY DISTANCE LEARNING

### Course Number, Name, and Credit Hours

MS 1100 Spiritual Life and Community, 3 credit hours

### Course Description

A foundational course focusing on the nature of discipleship and an introduction to the **essential** principles of the spiritual life. It will examine the nature and obligations of the spiritual life and the principles and practices that nurture it. It will explore the relationship between grace and effort in spiritual development and introduce the student to the disciplines of the spiritual life with the goal of developing lifelong patterns and practice. It will also explore the relationship between the spiritual life and the local church.

*Prerequisites: None*

**IMPORTANT NOTE: *Students will be required to create and lead a live small group in their home or church through the lessons learned in class.***

### Course Goals

In this course the learners will:

- Formulate a biblically based theology of Christian spirituality
- Know the various obstacles that hinder faithful discipleship
- Recognize the proper role of spiritual disciplines in cultivating spiritual maturity
- Value the role of community and accountability in spiritual development

### Course Objectives

By the completion of this course the learners should be able to:

1. Articulate the biblical principles and foundational spiritual disciplines of the Christian life and support them from Scripture
2. Critique contemporary society's influences on your view of spirituality
3. Develop and implement your own strategy for spiritual growth
4. Lead a small group of believers that focuses on spiritual life and discipleship
5. Explain the necessity of participation in a local body for service, evangelism and edification

## Course Textbooks

### Required Texts:

Required textbooks for all Moody Online classes can be found on the [Required Textbooks](#) section of the Moody website.

### Required Media:

Emeal, Zwayne. "Fishless Fisherman's Fellowship." LivingWaters.com, n.d. 0:03:14. From [http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=XVBXrkn9x8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=XVBXrkn9x8). Video.

MacArthur. "Spirit-Filled Living." Based on Ephesians 5:18. 1/8/2012. 1:00:34. From <http://www.gty.org/resources/sermons/80-378/spiritfilled-living>. Video. A PDF transcript available at site.

Piper, John. "You Were Bought with a Price." Based on 1 Corinthians 6:20. 11/22/1992. 0:28:45. From <http://www.desiringgod.org/resource-library/sermons/you-were-bought-with-a-price>. Audio. An abridged transcript available on screen at the site.

## Assignments Overview

**Note:** All reading and assignments are due according to the Course Schedule.

**READING:** The completion of the course reading is an important part of the course. If it is assigned for the discussions, you are expected to complete the reading prior to getting involved in class discussions. You will submit a reading report by the end of each week.

**DISCUSSION BOARD PARTICIPATION:** You must maintain a significant presence in the discussion board. There are eight (8) discussion board assignments. You need to add your initial post to the question(s) by mid-week (Friday, 11:59pm CST) and read/respond to at least two (2) of your classmates' initial posts by the end of the week (Monday, 11:59pm CST).

**QUIZZES:** There will be weekly quizzes from the reading material and assigned Scripture. These quizzes are timed closed-book tests.

**ASSIGNMENT 1: SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES PROJECT:** You will practice a particular spiritual discipline for the duration of the course and summarize what you learned in a final paper. You may choose from one of the spiritual disciplines listed in the Spiritual Disciplines document located in the **Course Resources** section of the Blackboard course or from another of your choosing with approval of the professor. You will keep a daily journal of your progress and experience practicing your discipline, and submit a 4-5 page paper summarizing your experience at the end of the semester. **(Due Week 8)**

**ASSIGNMENT 2: ON SITE SMALL GROUP:** Organize a small group in your church, home, or workplace which you can lead for seven (7) sessions through the course material, beginning with Week 2. See **Course Resources** for more details. You will need an accountability partner in this group whom you will meet with weekly to pray and get feedback about the group's progress. You will submit a weekly outline of your teaching materials based on the materials read/viewed for each lesson.

**ASSIGNMENT 3: PAPERS:** You will submit six (6) papers starting with Week 2 detailing various aspects or topics of the weekly reading. Each paper is to be submitted through the provided link in Blackboard for Weeks 2 through 7. Papers need to be between 2-4 pages in length (except for Paper #6, which needs to be 3-5 pages in length), double-spaced.

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Paper topics:

- Paper #1: "My Cross" – **Due Week 2**
- Paper #2: "My Prayer Life" – **Due Week 3**
- Paper #3: "My Spiritual Development" – **Due Week 4**
- Paper #4: "My Social Media Fast" – **Due Week 5**
- Paper #5: "My Spiritual Gifts" – **Due Week 6**
- Paper #6: "My Local Church" – **Due Week 7**

### Assessments

Your grade for this course will consist of:

Reading	10%
Discussion Board Participation	10%
Quizzes	10%
Assignment 1: Spiritual Discipline Project	20%
Assignment 2: On Site Small Group	20%
Assignment 3: Papers (5% each)	30%
	<b>100%</b>

Letter grades are determined by the following scale:

Letter Grade	Percentage Equivalent	Letter Grade	Percentage Equivalent
A	96% or higher	C	73 - 76.9%
A-	90 - 95.9%	C-	70 - 72.9%
B+	87 - 89.9%	D+	67 - 69.9%
B	83 - 86.9%	D	63 - 66.9%
B-	80 - 82.9%	D-	60 - 62.9%
C+	77 - 79.9%	F	Below 60%

### Course Resources

Online students have access to Moody's Crowell Library. Though students may wish to check out books via inter-library loan, the online database has a number of articles and reviews available for download. You can access the online databases by logging into your account at [my.moody.edu](http://my.moody.edu).

In addition to the resources available at the Crowell Library, you may wish to visit <http://www.biblicalstudies.org.uk> or [www.bible.org](http://www.bible.org). These sites contain content on various topics written by competent biblical scholars. It is also suggested that you download a free version of the NET Bible at bible.org.

The final resource that deserves mention here is iTunes University. Apple has developed a platform for colleges and universities to post audio and video content. There are a number of lectures available on iTunes U. Various schools such as Dallas Theological Seminary, Seattle Pacific University, Duke, and Yale have posted content related to biblical and theological studies.

### Course Copyright Statement

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- Ortberg, John. *The Life You've Always Wanted: spiritual disciplines for ordinary people*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1997.
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