

# Master Plan

## for Student Ministry

A seminar series by:



PO Box 538

Factoryville, PA 18419

570.504.7619

[www.SimpleAPilgrim.com](http://www.SimpleAPilgrim.com)



# Schedule

## **Friday**

6:30-7:00

Registration.

7:00-7:45

**Session 1: What Is Always True About Students** (Dwight Peterson)

7:45-8:00

Break.

8:00-8:45

**Session 2: The Point of Student Ministry** (Dr. Dennis Wilhite)

8:45-9:00

The Need To Know...

## **Saturday**

9:00-9:45

**Session 3: Biblical Foundation for Diagnosis** (Dwight Peterson)

9:45-10:00

Break.

10:00-10:45

**Session 4: Fruit Inspection** (Dr. Dennis Wilhite)

10:45-11:15

**Team Time:** Application of material from *Session 4*

11:15-12:00

**Session 5: Cultivating Individual Growth** (Dwight Peterson)

12:00-1:00

Lunch.

1:00-1:45

**Session 6: Group Dynamics** (Dr. Dennis Wilhite)

1:45-2:00

**Team Time:** Application of material from *Session 6*

2:00-2:15

Break.

2:15-3:00

**Session 7: Resources, Resources, Resources...** (Dr. Dennis Wilhite)

3:00-3:15

**Team Time:** Application of material from *Session 7*

3:15-3:30

Break.

3:30-4:15

**Session 8: Push Play... Getting Started** (Dwight Peterson)

4:15-5:00

Wrap Up.



# Session Descriptions

## **Session 1: What is Always True About Students**

Dwight Peterson

Kids these days... what's going on? Have you ever wondered why they are so different now? This session is designed to help us understand the truths that are consistent of adolescents regardless of the culture or generation we find ourselves in. Understanding your students will help you discover what goals you want to pursue and will help you visualize what is possible.

## **Session 2: The Point of Student Ministry**

Dr. Dennis Wilhite

Student ministry is too often like getting on a bus with a bunch of kids ready for an adventure, strapping into the driver's seat, getting everyone buckled up, starting the engine, then asking, "Where exactly are we going this time?" Parents have expectations. Pastors and the church leadership team have expectations. Students have agendas. Schools, athletics, jobs, friends and technology provide competition for their attention. There is no way to fulfill all of those expectations and agendas. Often no two can be fulfilled at the same time. So what on earth are we supposed to be doing here? What is the goal? What does God say about all of this?

## **Session 3: Biblical Foundation for Diagnosis**

Dwight Peterson

You may have a good idea of where you and your leadership team are spiritually, but where are your students? How do you know? This session will provide both a defense and a motivation for being involved in spiritual diagnosis, with a hard focus on how the Bible addresses the question of fruit in the life of the individual.

## **Session 4: Fruit Inspection**

Dr. Dennis Wilhite

Spiritually, your kids are all over the map... but how do you actually diagnose where on the map each student is? How do you figure out what they need from you? What does Scripture have to say? It's time to get your hands dirty with the process of fruit inspection using a structured spiritual diagnosis tool.

## **Session 5: Cultivating Individual Growth**

Dwight Peterson

Now that you have your hands around where each of your students is spiritually, how do you help them grow? This session will focus on developing growth plans for your students based on where they are today. The process builds on top of the spiritual diagnosis tool introduced in the previous session.

## **Session 6: Group Dynamics**

Dr. Dennis Wilhite

Student ministry is not just about individuals. The life of the group is influenced by each individual and each individual is affected by the group. So what does God say about groups? Influences? Dynamics? How does all of this effect your leadership approach?

## **Session 7: Resources, Resources, Resources...**

Dr. Dennis Wilhite

Recruiting a highly effective team... Assigning team members in a manner that takes full advantage of their gifts and abilities... Equipping the team for success... Tall order? Can't you just buy a boxed strategy and call it good? We'll take a look at what God says about it.

## **Session 8: Push Play... Getting Started**

Dwight Peterson

Thinking all this through can be overwhelming. What do we do first? We want to do so much... where do we start? This last session is designed to help you prioritize the things that need to happen first and allow you to begin laying a foundational plan for the next few weeks. You will not want to miss the key elements that tie all of this together.



# Speaker Bio's



**Dwight Peterson.** Since 1985, Mr. Peterson has been an integral part of the mission and ministry of Pilgrimage Educational Resources. After serving for three years as Youth Pastor at Brookdale Baptist Church (Bloomfield, NJ), Mr. Peterson accepted the Youth Pastor role at First Baptist Church (Elkhart, IN), where he served for 14 years. His area of responsibility included junior high, senior high and college ministry along with oversight of the Bible curriculum and discipleship functions at the Christian school operated by the church. In Elkhart, Mr. Peterson developed training courses for his youth ministry teams while also making them available in workshop and written formats as curriculum to other youth ministries. Out of this Mr. Peterson created and has continuously developed OnTrack Devotions.

Currently, Mr. Peterson serves on the faculty of Baptist Bible College (Clarks Summit, PA) as well as carrying various responsibilities at PER. His goal in life is to disciple students, whether that be in his youth ministries classes, leading a wilderness trip, coaching or hanging out with the guys in the dorm, where he serves as Resident Director. For the past several years, Dwight has been directing the TLC Youth Workers Conference. He also serves on the board of Koinonia Ministries.

Dwight and his wife, Bonnie, have four children: Kristin and her husband, Josh, Abigail and her husband, Isaac, Joseph, and Luke and two grandchildren: Cole and Maggie.



**Dr. Dennis Wilhite.** Dr. Wilhite began teaching at BBC in 1991 after 20 years of local church ministry. In addition to classroom responsibilities, he serves as the Dean of the School of Global Ministries. Dr. Wilhite teaches a range of student ministry, discipleship, and leadership courses both on campus and in wilderness classrooms. He also instructs graduate courses for Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary's online program and was selected to serve as one of six Academic Mentors with individual responsibility for 30 faculty members in that program.

Dr. Wilhite served as the student ministries pastor, then interim senior pastor at First Baptist Church (North Tonawanda, NY) from 1971 to 1980, then accepted the call to fill the student ministries position at Calvary Baptist Church (Grand Rapids, MI) where he served until 1990. His focus has been discipling people for the work of the ministry both in his years in the local church and in his ministry at BBC.

Dr. Wilhite is the founder of Pilgrimage Educational Resources and has used that venue for the past 25 years to help churches and other organizations develop aggressive, effective approaches to leadership development. His favorite thing to do is still to head into the wilderness with a group of people hungry to chase after broadened understanding of themselves, of others, of God, and of ministry leadership. He also serves on the board of Koinonia Ministries.

Dennis and his wife, Marlene, have four children: Lorie and her husband, Dave, Ben and his wife, Jeni, Jesse and Joshua, and his wife, Gwen. They have seven grandchildren: Jeromy, Gabrielle, Caedon, Maggie, Micah, Anna and Samuel.

