BIBLICAL COUNSELING

TEACHERS: Dr. Mike Messina; Dennis Doke; Kristi Rodriguez; Pierre Saget
WEBSITE: www.MinistryTrainingAcademy.com

CLASS DATES: November 13–14, 2026
CLASS SCHEDULE: Friday 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM
Saturday 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM
CLASS LOCATION: Heritage Church of Christ, 4201 Heritage Trace Parkway, Fort Worth, TX 76244

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed to provide students with a fundamental understanding of biblical counseling in the context of healthy, discipling relationships. This course illuminates the power of the Bible to help people grow, mature, and change. It focuses on how we may help people, by applying Scriptural principles to overcome obstacles and barriers to their ongoing maturity in Christ.

Friday, November 13:

1) Counseling Theology & Introduction – Pierre Saget
2) Differentiation, Compassion Fatigue & Self-Care for the Minister – Pierre Saget
3) Understanding Life Transitions – Dennis Doke
4) Practical: Case Studies/ Discussion

Saturday, November 14:

5) Counseling Fundamentals for the Biblical Counselor – Dr. Mike Messina
6) Understanding and Responding to Crisis Situations: Suicide, Harm, and Acute Mental Illness – Dr. Mike Messina
7) Practical: Case Studies/ Discussion
8) Dealing with Grief and Loss, Trauma – Kristi Rodriguez

LEARNING OUTCOMES AND OBJECTIVES:

This course has the following objectives for students:

1. To gain an appreciation for the scope of counseling.
2. To understand the natural limits to pastoral counseling in a church setting.
3. To recognize mental illness and when healthcare professionals are needed.
4. To learn how to counsel others through the normal challenges of life.

TEACHING METHODOLOGY:

Reading and a reflection paper will serve as the foundation for the work in class. Class discussion will help to further engage the material and focus on key themes. A final paper will test the student's knowledge of the major points and their ability to assess their own personal development based on the key areas learned.

REQUIRED READINGS:

Kollar, Charles Allen, *Solution-Focused Pastoral Counseling: An Effective Short-Term Approach for Getting People Back on Track.*

Clinton, Tim and Ron Hawkins, *The Quick Reference Guide to Biblical Counseling: 40 Topics, Spiritual Insights & Easy-to-use Action Steps*

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Reading Assignment
   Read *Solution-focused Pastoral Counseling.* Familiarize yourself with *The Quick Reference Guide to Biblical Counseling* but it is not necessary to read from cover to cover.

2. Pre-class Assignment
   Complete the Ministry Case Discussion Guide. Think of a real ministry situation where you felt uncertain or unsure how to respond. Use the worksheet to reflect on the situation, your response, and any questions you still have. Please protect confidentiality by leaving out names and identifying details. Bring your completed worksheet to class, ready to share, discuss, and learn together as we grow in our ability to care for others with biblical wisdom and compassion.

3. Reflection Paper
   Choose one counseling situation from your personal ministry. Without providing real names, describe the situation, what you did, and how applying solution-focused pastoral counseling might have affected a different outcome.

4. Final Exam

The final exam dates and access instructions will be provided during the course.

5. Formatting Requirements
   See MTA Formatting Requirements and MTA Cover Sheet Template on the website.

**FAILURE TO MEET DEADLINES WILL RESULT IN LOWER GRADES!*

COURSE EVALUATION:

For purposes of evaluation, class participation and assignments will be weighted as follows:

Attendance/participation	15%
Reading	15%
Reflection Paper	20%
Final Exam	50%

COURSE POLICIES:

- Any attempt to misrepresent a student's work, including plagiarism, is basis for dismissal from class and/or the Ministry Training Academy.
- Assignments will be accepted late. However, work that is turned in late will receive a lower grade. The grade may be dropped as much as 10% each day that the work is late.
- Each student should keep a copy of his/her work. The submitted work may not be returned.