

Pastoral Ministry Overview

Welcome to the study of pastoral ministry. This course provides the tools for developing a fruitful ministry.

Jesus taught that for a house to stand, it must be built on a solid foundation (Matthew 7:24–25). In the same way, for a ministry to endure, it must rest on a firm foundation. The first unit will consider (1) the call, character, and gifts of the pastor; (2) the devotional life, study, and fasting of the pastor; and (3) a pastor's life as a spouse, parent, and friend.

Unit 2 builds on the first unit. Chapter 4 emphasizes pastors' public ministries as reflections of their private lives. Pastors can feed others only with the spiritual food they have received *from* God, because they can lead others only into places they have been *with* God. As one wise pastor said, the exact amount people have to share with others is what they receive from God—no less and no more. Thus, pastors must walk daily with God, spending time in His Word and presence. Pastors who do this will never lack spiritual food for God's sheep.

Chapter 5 considers the pastor's role in leading worship. The importance of a pastor's relationship with God is again emphasized. From beginning to end, pastors must depend on the Spirit to minister through them to others. As this happens, believers will be fruitful and grow in grace.

Skills for ministry are taught in Chapter 6. The insights of this chapter can shape and equip pastors for a lifetime of caring for the flock of God.

Unit 3 continues with the duties and work of the ministry. Chapters 7–9 include a growing emphasis on equipping the saints for ministry. Blessed are the pastors who do not try to do everything themselves, for they shall guide each member of the body to do his or her part. As the whole body builds itself up, the needs of each member will be met.

No course on pastoral ministry would be complete without a chapter on special services. This chapter is not just theory; rather, a step-by-step guide of services related to the special events of life is explained.

The fourth unit explains relationships like a final exam. Pastors must make a passing grade in their relations with workers; otherwise, they will fail in ministry. Chapters 11 and 12 give insights about working with lay leaders and staff. Chapters 13–15 discuss the relationship of a pastor's work and calling. Many of those who begin well in pastoral ministry quit after a few years. Some fail because they love their neighbor more than themselves; others develop a root of bitterness that grows into a tree with deadly fruit; and some stumble over their own pride or selfish desires. These final chapters explain the keys to a long, fruitful pastoral ministry.

Course Description: MIN381 Pastoral Ministry (5 CEUs)

This course examines the ministry of the pastor in three areas: preparation, responsibilities, and relationships. In the unit on preparation, we study a pastor's qualifications, devotional life, and personal life. A unit on responsibilities analyzes a pastor's role in preaching and teaching, worship, pastoral care, leading, training, forming cell groups, and special services. The final unit

examines a pastor's relationships with lay leaders, staff, work, and calling. This is a principle-centered study to lay a lifelong foundation for pastoral ministry.

In addition to using your Bible, we also recommend that you use *The Pentecostal Pastor*, compiled and edited by Thomas E. Trask, Wayde I. Goodall, and Zenas J. Bicket, to enhance your learning experience.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, you should be able to

1. Explain how pastors' calls, characters, and gifts prepare them for ministry.
2. Analyze the relationship of pastors' devotional and personal lives to ministry.
3. Summarize principles to guide pastors in preaching and teaching.
4. Describe the pastoral role of worship in the church.
5. Examine the issues and principles related to pastoral care.
6. Explain the balance between the pastoral roles of leading and training.
7. Understand and appreciate the dynamics and effectiveness of cell group formation.
8. Acquire the basic steps and recognize the purpose of special services in the church.
9. Summarize principles for relating to lay leaders and staff.
10. Identify keys for maintaining rhythm and passion in ministry.¹

¹ Richard Exley, [*Pastoral Ministry*](#) (Springfield, MO: Global University, 2007), 12–13.