



BIBLICAL COUNSELOR | TRAINING COURSE

Frequently Asked Questions

What does this course consist of?

Topics and Teaching for the 30 week course, (1) Restoring Brokenness, (2) How To Make Right Changes In Your Life, (3) A Biblical Model for Christianity, (4) Practical Applications Of Communication, Marriage, Family, And Parenting Skills, And (5) The Application Of Our Counseling Process. Each week includes class lecture, case studies, group and class discussion. New to this year is the addition of role play applications and acquiring the basic counseling skills to express empathy, care, and encouragement to those who are hurting.

Who should consider this course?

Most who take the course aren't considering applying for a role as a church counselor at Calvary Murrieta. Nearly all who have taken the course have made long standing friendships, and have experienced growth, freedom, and joy in their own lives connecting them to a richer, flourishing, and abundant life.

Anyone who finds themselves with the gift of offering wise counsel and feels Gods leading them in their life to being able to help others who have lost their way. People who enjoy seeing God work in the lives of other people. Those who don't mind working behind the scenes seeing the Holy Spirit at work in the lives of both unbelievers and believers. Those who find that sharing the love of Christ often encourages those they speak with in such a way that sharing God leads to belief and confidence in His presence.

Why is the course 30 weeks?

The simple answer is that there is just no way to get all the material in. I will add that most everyone who finishes the courses says that "they wish it was longer." That always surprises me!

How much homework is there?

There is homework and most assignments can be done in very little time. But the explosive growth comes from those who pour effort each week to practice new learned skills and contemplate the homework at a deeper more personal level. Those individuals spend 20 – 90 minutes a week.

What happens if I can't attend all the classes?

We do everything we can to provide an environment where everyone can finish the course work. We have classes that can be attended on either Monday evenings, or Tuesday mornings. Additionally, we have 2 -3 make up sessions for any class work that it is needed to complete you counselor's notebook.

Will I be lost if I miss a class?

Each week there is a session of review. There is some redundancy built into the course so everyone can grow on a consistent basis. Additionally, I am available to answer any questions or review material where greater learning is desired.

Does everyone attending get to become a Biblical Church Counselor?

While everyone who completes the course requirements of 90% attendance will graduate the course and receive a certificate, not all will become a church counselor. Requirements would include attendance of Calvary Murrieta as a home church, have good communication skills, present a reasonable level of understanding in the materials but also have an ability to communicate biblical truth with a personality that is welcoming, a heart that is understanding, the wisdom to point out areas of growth, and the ability to help someone take action for maturity and growth in a prescribed area. Everyone who has completed the course will receive an opportunity to interview and become a church counselor.

I am shy and don't like speaking in front of people. Will this be a problem for me to attend? First of all, very few people enjoy public speaking. I am one of them. However, we recognize that open speaking in a group can be intimidating, and so no one is "forced" to share openly. I can admit enthusiastically that there has never been a class where someone who completed the course "never" shared. The class is designed to help us grow and part of growing is learning to share openly without reservation. This is part of the excitement of seeing how we all make changes throughout the year. I would recommend attending the course, doing the assignments each week and allow yourself the "possibility" of sharing, but only when you are ready.

What do I bring to class?

First and foremost a willingness to learn. Many of us have learned to apply our values and philosophies to our individual walk with Jesus. And to one degree or another we are somewhat satisfied. Nothing wrong with that. But to better communicate a reason for the hope that lies within us there is a great sensitivity to others that we develop when we realize that growth is a continuous process for everyone and not just those who "really" need it. Allowing for yourself that you/I am more like others than not and my need for the rescue of Jesus and the constant remediation of sin in my life makes me aware of my own limitations, and it makes me approachable, kind, and a greater resource of grace to others.

Secondly, be prepared to take notes. We have found that one of the best ways of learning is not just to hear the information but to process it kinetically and writing helps in that process. Each will be given notes which will be a part of your counseling Notebook that you are developing each week. So, a couple of writing utensils are definitely needed.

Third, a willingness to listen to the perspective of others. Learning to receive not for debate but for understanding the perspective of others is a skill that every counselor has developed in life, and everyone grows through this process. Also, we have found that no single person has all the answers. We all have a large resource pool of skills, talents, gifts, and life experiences from which to draw on and by listening to everyone's perspective learning is often increased.

What is the cost of materials?

Calvary Murrieta is deeply committed to as many people attending this course as possible and therefore there is no cost to all who attend. That is not to say there is no cost of the materials just that we provide the materials at no cost to each learner.