

COURSE SYLLABUS

Ministering to People in Pain

Course Lecturers: Alice Mathews, PhD and Karen Mason, PhD

Course Description

All of us experience pain in different ways at different times in our lives. For most of us, pain is a common experience that we don't want. In fact, we go to great lengths to try to avoid it. But when we find we can't avoid it, most of us need help in dealing with it. In this course, Dr. Alice Mathews and Dr. Karen Mason explain several types of interventions, which help us understand how we can come alongside people in pain and minister to them more effectively.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, you should be able to:

- Understand various definitions and causes of pain.
- Define “minister” and explain how a minister comes alongside people in pain.
- Learn to make sense of life's negative experiences in light of Who we believe God is.
- Identify and employ various methods of intervening in people's lives in order to help them.

Course Lecturers



Alice Mathews, PhD

Education:

- Iliff School of Theology/University of Denver, PhD
- Michigan State University, MA
- Bob Jones University, BA

Teaching Career:

- Academic Dean, Christian University GlobalNet
- Lois W. Bennett Distinguished Professor Emerita of Educational and Women's Ministries, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
- Academic Dean, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

Other Career Highlights:

- Co-host, *Discover the Word* radio program with Mart DeHaan and Haddon Robinson
- Frequent teacher and conference speaker throughout North America and other parts of the world
- Involved since 1970 in women's ministries both in North America and overseas, including 17 years spent serving in churches in France and Austria

Publications:

- Author of several books of Bible studies for women, as well as a homiletics textbook, *Preaching That Speaks to Women*, and a marriage textbook, *Marriage Made in Eden*, co-authored with M. Gay Hubbard
- Contributed chapters to eight other edited volumes



Karen Mason, PhD

Education:

- University of Denver, MA, PhD
- Denver Seminary, MA
- Wheaton College, BA

Teaching Career:

- Associate Professor of Counseling and Psychology, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
- Teacher at a number of schools in Colorado, as well as overseas at Murree Christian School in Pakistan and Hope Academy in Haiti

Other Career Highlights:

- Deliverer of direct care services in private practice
- Director of Quality Systems, Mental Health Center of Denver
- Manager, Office of Suicide Prevention, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
- Member, American Psychological Association and the American Counseling Association

Course Methods

Throughout this course, a number of methods will be used to engage you in understanding, processing and applying the information learned in this course to your life. These methods include the following:

- **Video-based teaching**

The primary teaching session in each lesson is provided in video format. If you do not have the bandwidth required to view the video, we provide the option of listening to the lesson or reading the lesson from a transcript.

- **Additional Resources**

Lessons may be accompanied by additional readings, images, etc. that you can use to supplement your learning.

Course Requirements

To earn a Certificate of Completion, you must complete the course requirements. Course requirements include:

1. Viewing the following for each lesson:
 - **Lesson Overview:** A brief outline of what the lecturer will cover in the lesson.
 - **Lesson Objectives:** Objectives describe the learning outcomes you should achieve by the end of the lesson.
 - **Lectures:** 15-20 minute lessons that can be viewed as many times as needed.
2. Earning a 70% or higher score on each lesson Quiz and the Final Exam.
Quizzes and the Final Exam will cover the material presented in the lectures.