



"I believe the 'Prepare, Feed, Sustain' course will enable anyone taking part to grow in their understanding and experience of how God has equipped them to be more involved in ministry and mission through the church. I warmly commend this course – whole, or part – as a great way to be challenged and equipped for present and future service."

Revd Nigel Coles
Regional Minister Team Leader
West of England Baptist
Association

When and Where?

PFS takes place at Bristol Baptist College from 10.00am - 3.30pm on Saturdays.

How much does it cost?

Please look at our website or contact the PFS Administrator for further information.

Applicants are encouraged to approach their churches for assistance towards the cost of the course.

How do I apply?

Please contact the PFS Administrator for a Registration Form.

Contacting the college

Further details are available from:

PFS Administrator
Bristol Baptist College
The Promenade, Clifton Down, Clifton
Bristol
BS8 3NJ

Tel: 0117 946 7050

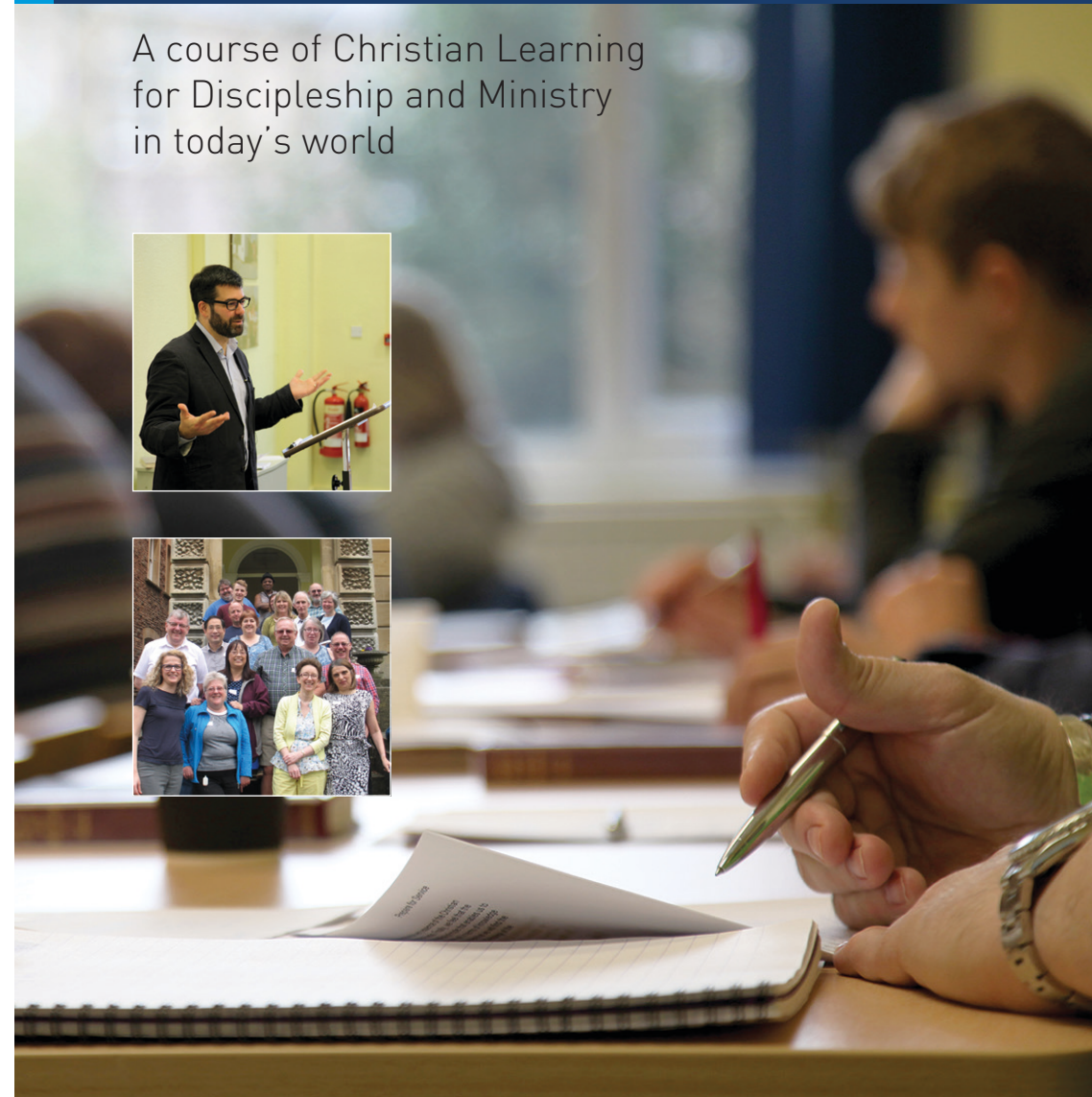
Email: community.learning@bristol-baptist.ac.uk

www.bristol-baptist.ac.uk



PFS Prepare, Feed, Sustain

A course of Christian Learning
for Discipleship and Ministry
in today's world



Prepare, Feed, Sustain...

PFS is:

A broad programme designed by the Baptist Union of Great Britain and delivered in Bristol by passionate, gifted practitioners.

An exciting opportunity to explore your faith more deeply in the company of others who love God

A practical course to equip you to serve God in the church and community



PFS is:

A flexible course – credits can be 'mixed and matched' with those from similar courses run by the other Baptist Colleges. Students can join the three-year rolling programme at any time.

A manageable course – no previous qualifications required. We set short, manageable assignments and provide mentor support. Individual modules can be attended without assessment by those who prefer not to commit to the whole course.

A certified course – on successful completion of all twelve modules, a certificate is issued at our annual valedictory service

An approved course – part of the Baptist Training Partnership, and approved by BUGB for those seeking to become locally recognised pastors or preachers.

“Growing healthy churches in relationship for God’s mission’ is the vision that we share as Baptists Together. Critical to moving from vision to reality is the equipping and releasing of disciples and leaders who love God, are rooted in the Word and fruitful in serving. PFS provides a great and flexible way to achieve this and I hope you will seize the opportunity for the sake of God’s Kingdom!”

Revd Lynn Green
General Secretary Baptist Union of Great Britain

Engaging with Contemporary Culture

If the good news of Jesus is eternal, does that mean our message never changes? How might we speak about the need to receive forgiveness to someone who feels no sense of guilt? How do we engage with a society that tells us 'my truth is as good as your truth'?

Spirituality

How do we 'connect' with God? Is there only one right way, or are there other techniques we can use to deepen our relationship with him? What might we learn from Christians in faith traditions different from our own?

Preaching

Has the sermon had its day? Or can it still be an effective tool to draw people onward in their Christian discipleship? How might we make our words easier to listen to, and the word of God harder to resist?

Leading Public Worship

What are the relative merits of new songs and old hymns? How might the structure of a worship service lead people into deeper engagement with God? How can we be creative yet faithful; innovative but not faddy?

Pastoral Care

How can we walk well with people who are facing situations of bereavement, family breakdown, domestic violence, or debt? Is it all about tea and sympathy? How can we bring people we are helping into a healing encounter with Jesus?

Reading and using the Bible (Old Testament)

Does the Old Testament have anything to say to us as Christians? What should we make of the law? What were the prophets on about? Is the Old Testament God different from the New Testament God?

Reading and using the Bible (New Testament)

Why are there four gospels, and why do they tell the same stories differently? Is the book of Acts a guidebook for today's church? How can I get a handle on the letters from Paul? And what's with all the dragons at the end?

Leadership skills

How can I help my church navigate change without being shipwrecked along the way? How can I help develop a small-groups programme in my church? How do I pour water, not petrol, on a situation of conflict? How do I chair a church meeting without controlling the discussion?

Doing Theology – A

Who is God and why does it matter? How can Jesus be fully God and fully man? The idea of the Trinity is just an invention of the early church, isn't it...? (We say no!)

Doing Theology – B

What does it mean to be made in the image of God? Is creation just destined for the scrap-heap? What's church all about – can you be a Christian and not part of the church?



Mission and Evangelism

How do I share the love of Jesus with my neighbour? Is running a food-bank 'doing mission'? What can we learn from the Bible about evangelism? Whose idea is mission, anyway?

Baptist Belief and Practice

Who were the first Baptists? Why were they thrown into prison and executed? What distinctives do Baptists bring to the wider church? Does anybody care anymore, and should we?