



Guidebook for Churches

Learning Together with Seminary Now

Dear Pastor or Church Leader,

Welcome to Seminary Now! With your new church subscription, you and your leaders have access to our complete library of over 70 courses designed to equip the local church. This guide gives tips to help you begin using Seminary Now as a game-changing tool for your church's equipping strategy.

Churches that see the most fruit in leader development, growth, and discipleship are those who identify a **Seminary Now Coordinator**, customize Seminary Now for their church with **Learning Tracks**, and launch **Seminary Now Learning Groups**. We invite you to set up a call with a member of our team to help guide you through these important tasks!

At Seminary Now, we know that **you** are uniquely called and gifted to shepherd and equip the people God has placed under your care. Seminary Now was created to be a resource to you as you fulfill that calling. Our goal is to help local churches flourish. Through our diverse library of courses, our partnerships with today's leading institutions in Christian education, and our commitment to personalized support, we are thrilled to come alongside you.

Thank you for serving Christ's church!

Here for you,

The Seminary Now Team

Three Essential Steps

to maximize your subscription

We recommend three steps for successful Seminary Now implementation:

- ☐ **STEP 1: IDENTIFY YOUR SEMINARY NOW COORDINATOR**
- ☐ **STEP 2: MAP OUT LEARNING TRACKS**
- ☐ **STEP 3: LAUNCH SEMINARY NOW LEARNING GROUPS**

This guide will walk you through each of these steps to launch your Seminary Now as a robust program of learning for the people you serve:



Align Your Leadership Team

Use Seminary Now to empower and align your team for even greater kingdom impact. Learn from the top scholars and ministry practitioners of today, while faithfully serving in your own unique context. Pastors, elders, deacons, ministry directors, teachers, residents, and interns, may all benefit from being part of a Seminary Now Learning Group at your church.



Disciple Your Small Groups

With Seminary Now, your small groups will experience biblical scholarship that's both accessible and applicable. With course workbooks, leader guides, & discussion questions, take your existing small groups to the next level of learning – and create new environments to reach people who have not yet made connections in community.



Launch a School of Ministry

Rising leaders thrive while remaining in their ministry contexts, accessing world-class training, and enjoying mentorship and community with your church's leadership. Your church membership includes Certificate Programs, custom learning tracks, and tuition discounts for for-credit learning.

Identify Your Seminary Now Coordinator

step one

Appointing a **Coordinator** is a critical step to maximize your church's implementation of Seminary Now.

The **Seminary Now Coordinator** should be:

- someone willing to serve as point person for all things Seminary Now for your church
- a leader with a solid reputation, a mature spiritual walk with Christ, a vision for leader development and discipleship, and sufficient experience in Christian leadership to lead and guide the training of lay and pastoral leaders
- willing to commit to the key responsibilities as outlined below.

Seminary Now Coordinator Key Responsibilities

☐ *Identify Goals*

Spend time in prayer and write out your God-given goals for your church. This is a great yearly exercise! Give words to the burden the Lord has placed on you for your people. Look for where God is working and think about what types of learning they need.

☐ *Identify & Establish Learning Groups*

Identify groups of leaders and members whom you will invite to learn together with Seminary Now. Learning Groups may include your church's leadership team, other ministry teams, current small groups, Sunday School classes, or Bible study groups. Launch new Learning Groups to reach people who have not yet made connections in your church and may be looking to deepen their own discipleship.

☐ *Map Out Learning*

Based on your God-given goals, create a plan for using Seminary Now with each of these Learning Groups. For each Learning Group, map out learning by selecting a

Course-by-Course Approach, Learning Track, or Certificate Program. You may select Learning Tracks pre-designed by our team, or create your own to best fit your vision, mission, and goals. Once you've mapped out your learning, create a schedule for your course offerings and group meetings this semester or year.

☐ *Recruit and Shepherd Course Facilitators for Learning Groups*

Pray about individuals you should recruit to serve as Course Facilitators to lead Learning Group sessions. Arrange meetings to designate who will lead which courses, when, where, and how. Be clear in what you expect from and what you will offer your Facilitators. Trust that God will use the appropriate persons.

A Seminary Now Course Facilitator's primary responsibility is not to teach the course material, but to keep the group on track, ensuring the members understand the fundamentals of the subject, and engaging in dialogue in a way that relates directly to the experiences of the group.

☐ *Create Environments for Seminary Now Learning Groups*

You will want to schedule weekly 90-minute meetings for the members of each Learning Group to come together for the duration of each course. During these weekly meetings, the Learning Group should watch the videos together, and then have a discussion of the content of the material that they have just encountered.

The Coordinator will also need to organize any required facilities, equipment, and materials for Facilitators. Take the time to select, reserve, and prepare environments that will be conducive to an enjoyable learning experience. Make sure your technology (TV, internet) is working and ready to go for your Facilitators to log in to Seminary Now and view their course videos. Ensure that all participants have downloaded the workbook and that Facilitators have downloaded the Leader's Guide (from the Resources section of the course page). When applicable, consider purchasing the teacher's accompanying published book for your leaders. (Links to books are in each course description at seminarynow.com.)

☐ *Spread the Word and Invite Learners*

Promote your courses, casting vision and inviting folks to join you in this learning journey. Schedule a consultation with our team to discuss creating your Seminary Now landing page and other marketing tips and resources. (See [Seminary Now Sample Church Page](#) as one example.)

Map Out Learning Tracks

step two

For successful implementation, you will need to (1) map out a plan for your Leadership Team, **and** (2) map out a plan for Small Group Discipleship.

Leadership Teams

Choose a Course-by-Course approach, a Learning Track approach, or a Certificate Program approach for your Leadership Team.

Course-by-Course Approach

Some teams opt for a course-by-course approach. The PDF Learning Workbook and Leader Guide for each course—available in the “Resources” tab of each course page—provide reflection questions for discussion. When applicable, consider purchasing the teacher’s accompanying published book for your leaders. (Links to books are in each course description at seminarynow.com.) Here are some of our top course recommendations for leadership teams:

Favorite Course Selections for Leadership Teams				SEMINARY NOW	
Personal Development					
Pastoral Ministry: Calling and Resilience <i>Mark Quanstrom</i>	Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership <i>Ruth Haley Barton</i>	Tempered Resilience <i>Tod Bolsinger</i>	Servant Leadership <i>Gene Wilkes</i>	Managing Anxiety: Yours and Theirs <i>Steve Cuss</i>	Canoeing the Mountains <i>Tod Bolsinger</i>
Vision Conversations					
Uncommon Church <i>Alvin Sanders</i>	Empowering Women in Ministry <i>Tara Beth Leach</i>	Analog Church <i>Jay Kim</i>	What is the Church: Why It Still Matters <i>David Fitch</i>	Multiethnic Church Leadership <i>Derwin Gray</i>	Together in Ministry <i>Rob Dixon, Lisa Rodriguez-Watson, and Layla Van Gerpen</i>
Pastoral Care and Ministry					
Crisis Counseling <i>Scott Floyd</i>	Evangelism: Sharing the Big Story <i>James Choung</i>	Advocating with Survivors of Sexual Violence <i>Nikole Lim</i>	Clinical and Biblical Perspectives on Mental Illness <i>Matthew Stanford</i>	Church Forsaken: Practicing Presence in Neglected Neighborhoods <i>Jonathan Brooks</i>	Church-Based Community Development <i>Wayne Gordon</i>

Learning Tracks for Leadership Teams

Following a Learning Track together with your team provides sacred space to learn together for greater Kingdom impact. You'll want to map out courses based on your team's meeting rhythms, assigning a video session on a weekly or biweekly schedule and meeting for group discussion, processing, and prayer. Select one of the following pre-designed Learning Tracks, or create your own!

<i>Pastoral Ministry</i> Learning Track for Leadership Teams		SEMINARY NOW	
Pastoral Ministry			
Church Ministry			
What is the Church: Why It Still Matters <i>David Fitch</i>	Multiethnic Church Leadership <i>Derwin Gray</i>	Black Church Studies <i>Marshall Hatch</i>	Analog Church <i>Jay Kim</i>
Empowering Women in Ministry <i>Tara Beth Leach</i>	Church-Based Community Development <i>Wayne Gordon</i>	Together in Ministry <i>Rob Dixon, Lisa Rodriguez-Watson, and Layla Van Gerpen</i>	Uncommon Church <i>Alvin Sanders</i>
Pastoral Counseling			
Managing Anxiety: Yours and Theirs <i>Steve Cuss</i>	A Clinical and Biblical Perspective on Mental Illness <i>Matthew Stanford</i>		Crisis Counseling <i>Scott Floyd</i>
Ministry Formation			
Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership <i>Ruth Haley Barton</i>	Pastoral Ministry: Calling & Resilience <i>Mark Quastrom</i>	Tempered Resilience <i>Tod Bolsinger</i>	Servant Leadership <i>Gene Wilkes</i>

Biblical Interpretation and Teaching
Learning Track for Leadership Teams

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Biblical Interpretation and Teaching

Old Testament Studies

Bearing God's Name: Why Sinai Still Matters
Carmen Joy Imes

Old Testament Backgrounds
John Walton

Demystifying Evil
Ingrid Faro

Stewards of Eden
Sandra Richter

The Lost World of Genesis One
John Walton

Being God's Image:
Why Creation Still Matters
Carmen Joy Imes

New Testament Studies

New Testament Backgrounds
Craig Keener

Jesus and the Gospels
Scot McKnight

Introducing Paul
Michael Bird

New Testament Studies:
Understanding Key Debates
Nijay Gupta

Introduction to the General Epistles
David deSilva

Women in the New Testament
Lynn Cohick

Hermeneutics and Preaching

Basic New Testament
Interpretation
Nijay Gupta

Ten Practical Ways to a Better
Sermon
Mary Hulst

Reading While Black
Esau McCauley

Living and Living the Bible Well
Glen Paauw

Women in Ministry
Learning Track for Leadership Teams

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NOW

Women in Ministry

Biblical Foundations

Women in the New Testament
Lynn Cohick

Rediscovering Scripture's
Vision for Women
Lucy Peppiatt

Basic New Testament
Interpretation
Nijay Gupta

Why Women Matter Seminary
Now Webinar
*Nijay Gupta, Tara Beth Leach, and
Beth Felker Jones*

Ministry Applications

Empowering Women in Ministry
Tara Beth Leach

Together in Ministry
*Rob Dixon, Lisa Rodriguez-Watson,
and Layla Van Gerpen*

Seminary Now Certificate Programs

Your subscription to Seminary Now includes access for each leader with a login to pursue any of Seminary Now's certificate programs, and you can always purchase additional logins at a prorated price.

Certificate in Seminary Foundations

Certificate in Ministry

Certificate in Justice & Reconciliation

Each member of your team may earn a certificate from Seminary Now by completing 8 courses in one of the Certificate Learning Tracks. Course completion entails watching the course, completing the learning workbook, and passing a comprehension quiz.

These three Certificate Learning Tracks are perfect for leaders needing a solid start to ministry formation, for residency and internship programs, for church planting pipelines, and for leaders' alignment and vision formation. Church staffs beginning a new leadership development program, as well as elder and deacon boards, and church members discerning a call to ministry, may all benefit from starting with these essential core tracks.

 Seminary Now Certificate in Seminary Foundations <i>Gain a solid foundation for further study by starting with introductory courses in Bible, theology, and ministry.</i>			
Bible and Theology			
Old Testament Essentials <i>Tremper Longman</i>	Jesus and the Gospels <i>Scot McKnight</i>	Basic New Testament Interpretation <i>Nijay Gupta</i>	The Mosaic of Christian Belief <i>Roger Olson</i>
Ministry and Leadership			
Servant Leadership <i>Gene Wilkes</i>	Evangelism: Sharing the Big Story <i>James Choung</i>	Ten Practical Ways to a Better Sermon <i>Mary Hulst</i>	Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership <i>Ruth Haley Barton</i>



Seminary Now Certificate in Ministry

Strengthen your capacity for ministry with these courses covering a spectrum of knowledge and skills needed for effective Christian ministry.

Required Courses

What is the Church: Why It Still Matters <i>David Fitch</i>	Servant Leadership <i>Gene Wilkes</i>	Evangelism: Sharing the Big Story <i>James Choung</i>	Ten Practical Ways to a Better Sermon <i>Mary Hulst</i>	Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership <i>Ruth Haley Barton</i>	Roadmap to Reconciliation <i>Brenda Salter McNeil</i>
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Electives

(choose 2 from the following):

Empowering Women in Ministry <i>Tara Beth Leach</i>	A Clinical and Biblical Perspective on Mental Illness <i>Matthew Stanford</i>	Multiethnic Church Leadership <i>Derwin Gray</i>	Church Forsaken: Practicing Presence in Neglected Neighborhoods <i>Jonathan Brooks</i>	The Next Worship: Glorifying God in a Diverse World <i>Sandra Van Opstal</i>	Rediscipling the White Church <i>David Swanson</i>
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Seminary Now Certificate in Justice & Reconciliation

Learn the complex social issues facing communities today, honor the value of each person's ethnicity and culture, and work toward justice and reconciliation in Christ.

Required Courses

Roadmap to Reconciliation <i>Brenda Salter McNeil</i>	Beyond Colorblind: Redeeming Our Ethnic Journey <i>Sarah Shin</i>	Rethinking Incarceration <i>Dominique Gilliard</i>	Church Forsaken: Practicing Presence in Neglected Neighborhoods <i>Jonathan Brooks</i>
Is Christianity the White Man's Religion? <i>Antipas Harris</i>	The Next Worship: Glorifying God in a Diverse World <i>Sandra Van Opstal</i>	Multiethnic Church Leadership <i>Derwin Gray</i>	Rediscipling the White Church <i>David Swanson</i>

Seminary Now

For Small Group Discipleship

Course-by-Course Approach

Many small groups opt for a course-by-course approach to studying together. Here are some of our top recommendations:

Small Group Favorites The following Learning Track represents our most popular courses and newest releases for 2023-2024. Choose the course that most interests you and start learning today! SEMINARY NOW					
Bible Studies					
Jesus and the Gospels Scot McKnight	Introduction to the General Epistles David deSilva	The Lost World of Genesis One John Walton	Introducing Paul Michael Bird	New Testament Backgrounds Craig Keener	Bearing God's Name: Why Sinai Still Matters Carmen Joy Imes
Book-Based Studies					
Liturgy of the Ordinary Tish Harrison Warren	Teach Your Children Well Sarah Cowan Johnson	Stewards of Eden: Scripture and the Environment Sandra Richter	What is the Church: Why It Still Matters David Fitch	Reading and Living the Bible Well Glen Pauw	Reading While Black Esau McCaulley
Small Group Favorites					
Women in the New Testament Lynn Cohick	Evangelism: Sharing the Big Story James Choung	Rediscovering Scripture's Vision for Women Lucy Peppiatt	The Enneagram Journey Suzanne Stabile	Faithful Antiracism Christina Edmonson and Chad Brennan	Managing Anxiety: Yours and Theirs Steve Cuss

Learning Tracks for Small Groups

A Learning Track is an intentional one-year journey through 4-6 Seminary Now courses, all focused on around one topic or learning goal, perfect for learning together in community. If you and your group have an idea for a Learning Track not represented here, reach out and we'd love to help put it together!

Year of Biblical Literacy

Learning Track for Small Groups

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NOW

Biblical Literacy

Old Testament Studies (select two):

Being God's Image:
Why Creation Still
Matters
Carmen Joy Imes

The Lost World of
Genesis One
John Walton

Holy Land I
John Beck

Old Testament
Backgrounds
John Walton

Holy Land II
John Beck

Bearing God's Name:
Why Sinai Still
Matters
Carmen Joy Imes

New Testament Studies (select two):

Jesus and the
Gospels
Scot McKnight

New Testament
Studies:
Understanding Key
Debates
Nijay Gupta

Women in the New
Testament
Lynn Cohick

Introducing Paul
Michael Bird

New Testament
Backgrounds
Craig Keener

Introduction to the
General Epistles
David deSilva

Biblical Interpretation/Hermeneutics (select one):

Basic New Testament Interpretation
Nijay Gupta

The Cruciform Kingdom of God
Greg Boyd

Reading and Living the Bible Well
Glen Pauw

Spiritual Formation and Discipleship Essentials

Learning Track for Small Groups

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NOW

Biblical Literacy

Old Testament Studies

Being God's Image:
Why Creation Still
Matters
Carmen Joy Imes

The Lost World of
Genesis One
John Walton

Holy Land I
John Beck

Old Testament
Backgrounds
John Walton

Holy Land II
John Beck

Bearing God's Name:
Why Sinai Still
Matters
Carmen Joy Imes

New Testament Studies

Jesus and the
Gospels
Scot McKnight

New Testament
Studies
Nijay Gupta

Women in the New
Testament
Lynn Cohick

Introducing Paul
Michael Bird

New Testament
Backgrounds
Craig Keener

Introduction to the
General Epistles
David deSilva

Biblical Interpretation/Hermeneutics

Basic New Testament Interpretation
Nijay Gupta

The Cruciform Kingdom of God
Greg Boyd

Reading and Living the Bible Well
Glen Pauw

Your Church's Website & Seminary Now Landing Page

Once you've decided on a Learning Track for your leadership team and small groups, our team can create a custom landing page for your website showcasing your courses with your organization's branding. This will be a convenient place for your leaders to access the courses. [Click here to view a sample Seminary Now landing page](#) from one of our partner churches.

Our team will update your church's Seminary Now landing page once a year, so you'll want to plan your Learning Tracks annually. Our team is here to help every step of the way!

Launch Seminary Now Learning Groups

step three

Appoint Course Facilitators

For each Seminary Now Learning Group, you'll want to appoint a Course Facilitator. Course Facilitators are simply leaders who can take responsibility for keeping the group on track – making sure that participants are resourced and have everything they need to learn. This person does not need to be able to teach the course material, but facilitate discussion. They should be a leader who has the respect and attention of the members of the Learning Group.

Schedule and Structure Learning Groups

We recommend scheduling weekly 60-90 minute meetings for the members of each Learning Group to come together for the duration of each course – just like a regular small group. (If the group meets bi-weekly, the meetings should be 90-120 minutes long.)

During these meetings, the Learning Group should watch the videos together, and then have a discussion of the content of the material that they have just encountered.

Set Clear Expectations

To have a good experience, your leaders and small group participants should know what to expect from your new subscription with Seminary Now. Seminary Now is a wonderful tool to equip and resource your church for greater Kingdom impact, but implementation is key. Our team can help with resources and ideas for communicating with your church about your new Seminary Now subscription, including ways to cast vision, invite participants, and inspire the people you serve to go deeper together with Seminary Now. Schedule a consultation with our team to discuss specific communication and implementation tips, including creating your own Seminary Now landing page.

Support

we're here for you

Our team exists to serve you, and we look forward to helping you evaluate your use of Seminary Now in the months to come, making any changes necessary, and growing together as you learn in your context.

Due to the generous funding of our grant partners, we offer consults with Seminary Now Coordinators, Facilitators, and staff or volunteer leadership teams as much as desired at no additional charge. Our team consists of pastors, educators, and ministry-minded individuals who are called to serve the church and extend biblical scholarship to those outside the walls of academia. We'd love to hear your story, and help find solutions to your unique challenges!

To schedule a consultation with a member of our team, reach out at info@seminarynow.com.