

Preview Sample



Leader's Guide

Tim A Dearborn

www.dynamiscourse.com

**A course for all God's people to create a lifetime
lifestyle of participation in God's Mission**

Preview Sample

©2009 **World Vision International**

800 West Chestnut Ave.

Monrovia, CA 98106

in agreement with Bethany Presbyterian Church

3 Howe Street

Seattle, WA 98109

A portion of the proceeds from the **DYNAMIS Course** is given to the work of World Vision International

Upon registration at www.dynamiscourse.com permission is granted to duplicate and distribute for free portions of this Leader's Guide for use in leading the **DYNAMIS Course**.

Pages are divided for ease of removal and photocopy

Preview Sample

Contents

Introducing the <i>Dynamis</i> Course	
How do I describe this course?	1
Who should participate?	3
How many volunteers are needed?	4
What are the responsibilities of discussion group leaders?	5
What does a typical course session look like?	6
Quick-Start guide to getting organized	7
Start-up decisions	
Planning timeline	
Summary of time commitments for leaders	
Organizing the Course	
Forming an organizing team	9
Sample schedule	11
Schedule for weekly format	
Schedule for two-day format	
Dinner or Dessert?	13
Retreat	14
Finances	17
Publicity	18
Dividing participants into discussion groups	19
Leading the course sessions	
Introducing the course to participants	20
Explaining the Discussion Group Activity Worksheet	21
Explaining the Course project: Portraying Journey of Faith	
Explaining the Concluding Exercises	22
Overview of each session	23
Worship ideas: music, liturgies, prayers	27
Discussion group leader's guide	31

Preview Sample

Other Resources	
Biblical references to <i>Dynamis</i>	33
Sample evaluation form	39
Materials to photocopy for participants:	
Key thoughts	41
Encountering the <i>Dynamis</i> of God in daily life	42
Overview of each session	43
Group Activity Worksheet	45
Portraying the <i>Dynamis</i> of God in my Journey of Faith	47
Reflections on my Journey of Faith	48
Next Steps in my Journey of Faith: Commitments and Vision	50
Resources on the <i>dynamiscourse.com</i> website	51

Introducing the *Dynamis* Course

Welcome to the journey of leading others into the dynamis of God

This loose leaf notebook (along with the Participant's Guidebook) contains everything you need to organize and lead the *Dynamis Course*.

- Feel free to reproduce any of the pages in this notebook for the use of others in your course.
- Use this as your organizing notebook and add other materials you develop—such as your specific schedule, publicity materials, names of leaders and participants, menus, contact information, etc.
- Make use of the “networking” site at www.dynamiscourse.com to offer suggestions for enhancing the course, ask for ideas from others who are leading it, and contact groups in your region.

How do I describe the *Dynamis Course*?

The “Welcome” section in the Participant's Guidebook provides a good introduction to the course. It answers many of the questions people have.

What's in a name?

Obviously, one of the first questions people have is about the funny name. ***What is “dynamis” and why use such a strange word for the name of the course?*** Dynamis is the word used in the New Testament for strength, power and ability. The Christian life requires more than conviction and commitment. It is not enough simply to believe the right things or try as hard as we can. The gospel of Christ is not simply the good **news** of salvation. It is not just a set of ideas and information.

*“The gospel is the **dynamis** (strength, power and ability) of God for salvation” (Romans 1:16). Living fruitfully along the journey of faith requires power – the power, strength and ability of God poured into our lives through Christ by the Holy Spirit.*

*“I pray that you may know...the immeasurable greatness of God's **dynamis** for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. (Ephesians 1:19)*

We chose this word as the title of the course because it sums up in one word what the course is all about. Here are the three most important things to say as you explain the course to others:

1. The ***Dynamis Course*** explores a lifestyle empowered by the Spirit. We need more than just ideas, exhortations and discipline to follow Christ. We need strength, power and ability. In other words, we need ***dynamis!*** God wants to give us the power to walk faithfully and fruitfully and fulfil God's will and ways in our journey of faith.
-

Preview Sample

2. The course creates opportunities to encounter God's transforming power and purposes for our lives and our world.
3. By the end of the course, participants will have developed a summary of the specific qualities, dreams and commitments to which God is inviting them personally for the next steps in their journey of faith.

Who is behind the course?

This course seeks to fill a gap in resources to equip people for participation in the grand adventure of life in God's Kingdom. Mission-oriented courses often focus on what we must do: on *our volunteer* activities for a few hours of our year, or on the lifetime of service by *a few* of God's people. The *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement Course* provides a great overview of God's purposes in the world and our work in it. On the other hand, spiritual formation courses often focus on our inner life, with little emphasis on our work in the world. The *Alpha Course* and the *Purpose Driven Life* materials provide great introductions to the Christian faith and the basics of what it means to follow Christ.

The ***Dynamis Course*** knits together God's work in our own spiritual formation—and God's work through us in the world. Rather than something confined to our volunteer time, or to the noble work of extraordinary saints, our participation by the power of the Spirit in God's mission in the world is the joyous privilege of all God's people, in all aspects of our lives, all of the time.

Early drafts of the material were developed for the staff of World Vision International. Tim Dearborn and Don Posterski developed a Bible study guide that was used by thousands of World Vision staff, *Making the Most of the Rest of our Lives*. This became the foundation for this course. Since then, the ***Dynamis course*** has gone through dozens of drafts and been tried out multiple times in several churches. Hundreds of people have laboured through the participant's guide, offering detailed suggestions for how it could be improved.

The ***Dynamis Course*** is a joint ministry of World Vision International, and Bethany Presbyterian Church in Seattle. Tim Dearborn has authored most of the material and presents the Bible studies on the videos. He is responsible for the Christian formation of World Vision International's staff around the world and World Vision's strategies for Christian witness. Previously, he has served as a professor at Seattle Pacific University, Fuller Theological Seminary, Regent College, the French Evangelical Seminary in Paris and the University of Aberdeen in Scotland, and as a Presbyterian minister. He lives in Seattle, WA USA with his wife of 38 years, Kerry, and their 3 daughters, sons in law, and grandchildren. Other books he has written include:

Taste and See: Awakening our Spiritual Senses (IVP, 1996);

Beyond Duty: A Passion for Christ, a Heart for Mission (MARC, 1997);

The Local Church in a Global Era (ed.) (Eerdmans, 2000);

Short-term Missions Workbook (IVP, 2003);

Worship at the Next Level: Insights from Contemporary Voices (ed.) (Baker, 2004);

Doing Business in the Kingdom of God (with Christopher Shore) (WVI, 2006).

Who should participate in the *Dynamis* Course?

- *Interest.* This study is designed for people who are serious about taking new steps in following Christ. It assumes a desire to be used by God in the world as witnesses to Christ and the coming Kingdom. The material works for people who are new believers, as well as for people who have followed Christ for years.
 - *Age and background.* It is appropriate for people from late-teens and beyond. It is written to be accessible to people from any cultural background and from diverse church traditions.
 - *Size.* Through a combination of individual, small group, and large group discussion, the number of participants can range from 4 to 6, to several hundred.
 - *Commitment.* The course expects participants to engage in small group discussions and in personal reflection. Though someone could be a passive spectator, this risks both diminishing the quality of the experience for that individual—as well as for others in his or her small group. Therefore, it is important to clarify the expectations and time commitments:
 1. *Attendance.* Because each session builds on the previous ones, and much of the interaction occurs in the same small groups, the experience is enhanced if participants can attend each session. Obviously, things come up and our schedules change, but to the extent possible, it's preferred if people can commit themselves to the entire series.
 2. *Outside Work.* Participants should expect to engage in one hour of reflection using the reflection questions after each session. In addition, the integration exercises at the end of the course require several hours for personal reflection and prayer.
-

Preview Sample

How many volunteers are needed?

This obviously depends on the size of your group. If you using the materials in one small group, or for an existing class, then the organization is easy and the Participant's Guidebook provides nearly all the information that is required. It is possible to engage in this study with a facilitator who only arranges materials needed for the video as well as group exercises, leads the discussion, and monitors the time-schedule. This could be rotated between participants.

However, if you are organizing the ***Dynamis Course*** as its own activity, then the following roles are needed. Just one or two people could fulfill all the responsibilities, or a different person in a leadership team could assume each responsibility:

- Course coordinator
- Registration and finance coordinator
- Publicity coordinator
- Prayer coordinator
- Dinner-or-dessert coordinator (if food is provided)
- Worship leader(s)
- Discussion group leaders (preferably two per group)
- Retreat coordinator (if a course retreat is held)

Suggestions for each role are outlined in the section on "*Forming an organizing team*".



Preview Sample

What are the responsibilities of discussion group leaders?

Discussion groups are at the heart of the *Dynamis Course*. It is in discussion groups of six to ten people that opportunities are created to dive deeply and personally into God's *dynamis* and God's purposes for our lives. Therefore, discussion group leaders have a pivotal role.

We encourage each group to have two leaders. They can either rotate the leadership between them, or one can take the primary role, and the other can focus on being a support, praying as you go, seeking to discern what God is doing among group members, and caring for participants.

It is important to select discussion group leaders who are mature in their own faith, willing to commit themselves to the entire course and invest the time necessary to make it a fruitful experience for others, and able to create a safe environment for people to share their thoughts about the course material and their own journey of faith.

Specifically, they commit themselves to:

1. Pray regularly for the people in their group.
2. Familiarize themselves with the entire Participant's workbook and do the exercises for the next session in advance, so that they know what to expect.
3. Coordinate the timing of their discussion group session.
4. Lead the discussion by selecting which questions are the best ones for their group, and by coordinating the group activities. Obviously, these roles could be shared among the members of the group if this seems to be appropriate.
5. Ensure that any resources or materials that are needed for their group session are available.
6. Coordinate the conclusion and final prayer for their group.
7. Check-in with group members outside of the session occasionally to see how they are doing with the course and the ideas being explored.

More suggestions for the Discussion group leaders can be found in the Discussion Group Leader's Guide in the section on *Leading the Course Sessions*. You might want to copy that material for the discussion group leaders.

Preview Sample

What does a typical course session look like?

Sample schedules will be provided in a later section. However, as you begin to organize the course, it's helpful to have an idea of a typical format. The following is based on seven three-hour sessions. If you decided not to meet for a meal or dessert, each session could be completed in 1½ hours.

30-45 minutes	Begin with a meal or dessert together —This opportunity for informal conversation, building relationships, and hearing of each other's experience during the week lays a central foundation for the evening.
10 minutes	Opening Worship —We begin the session with 10 minutes of worship, fixing our lives on the God of power, wisdom, glory and life.
30 minutes	Video Presentation —This 25 minute lecture lays the foundation for the evening's theme. On the first page of each week's workbook are 1) the Bible passages referred to in the lecture; 2) the central idea; 3) 1 to 3 key words that form the crux of the presentation. There is also a one paragraph summary. Following the presentation, participants are encouraged to write in a journal some of their own reactions and responses.
5 minutes	Concluding Worship —Each lecture session ends in worship through a song, a liturgy, prayer and sometimes a symbolic enacting of the theme explored that week. From here we break for small groups.
45-60 minutes	Discussion groups —Following the lecture we break into the same discussion groups each week. The Participant's workbook provides suggested discussion questions and activities. Depending on the flow of your conversation, there may be more suggestions than you have time for. Allow God to guide you through the time.
Optional 30 minutes	Diving Deeper —If your group has more time, additional exercises are provided in each session for the discussion groups to engage with the material in discussion groups in greater depth.
end	Each session concludes in the discussion groups.

Personal reflection between sessions	The course is designed for participants to invest at least one-hour between sessions in personal reflection using the questions and exercises provided in the Participant's Workbook. Each week, using the guide provided, participants are given the opportunity to chart key points in their journey of faith. During the last two weeks, they have the opportunity to create a 1-page summary. What qualities and commitments do they want to characterize their life during the next months or years of their journey—and how would they chart or draw where they believe God is wanting to lead them as they participate in God's mission in the world?
Diving Deeper	If participants are able to invest more time, additional exercises are provided in each session for them to engage with the material personally in greater depth.

Final celebration—The *DYNAMIS* Course concludes with a final celebration, without any lecture, for participants to share insights they have gained through this time together, what they have learned and how God has met them, what commitments they feel called to make, and to what next steps they believe God is calling them on their journey of faith. This ends with celebrative worship, a covenant of commitment and prayer.