



Introduction:

The Greek word *stratēgos* refers to civilian leaders (Acts 16:20, 22, 35, 38) or leaders in a military or guard setting (Luke 22:4, 52; Acts 4:1; 5:24). It speaks of one who both leads and governs a group or company of people. The plural, *stratēgoi*, then, refers to those who oversee and lead a group of people. Because of this, it is an ideal word to speak of leaders within a church or the training that equips them for their ministry.

More specifically, in the context of the Minden Evangelical Free Church, *Stratēgoi* stands for the training that prepares leaders for how to lead others in the congregation to fulfill our mission, to glorify God as joyful followers who know, grow to be like, serve, and share Jesus so that others can do the same.

Who Should Participate:

Anyone who is leading or wants to lead in the church is encouraged to participate. Special focus is on elders, Bible Fellowship leaders, deacons, deaconesses, and anyone who wants to disciple others.

How It Works:

To complete the *Stratēgoi* training, all eleven of the core studies must be completed + whatever extra curriculum applies.

At least five of the studies in the core curriculum must be completed meeting together in a *Stratēgoi* group. Any extra curriculum that applies must be completed in a *Stratēgoi* group. Other studies can be completed by the person reading them on their own (although it is recommended that studies be completed in discussion with at least one other person and/or with on-line helps).

Once all the studies have been completed a certificate and a special coin will be given to the person to acknowledge their hard work and achievement.

The Curriculum:¹

- (1) Disciplemaking Movement Study, which includes the Discovering God Bible Study tools (dgapp.org).²
- (2) *John Piper, *The Dangerous Duty of Delight*³
- (3) *Wayne Grudem, *Christian Beliefs*⁴

¹ The symbol * marks books that will need to be purchased.

² This class must be completed in a *Stratēgoi* group.

³ If you have read either John Piper, *Desiring God*, or Randy Alcorn, *Happiness* (or watched the DVD version of *Happiness*), it serves as a substitute. Another substitute would be to watch John Piper, "Desiring God," Parts 1 and 2 on You Tube.

- (4) *One-to-One Bible Reading Basics*, along with reading through one Bible book together⁵
- (5) *Donald Whitney, *Spiritual Disciplines For The Christian Life*⁶
- (6) *The New City Catechism*⁷
- (7) *J. Mack Stiles, *Evangelism*
- (8) *Dann Spader, *Four Chair Disciplining*⁸
- (9) *Mark Dever, *What Is A Healthy Church?*
- (10) SHAPE evaluation
- (11) Leadership Assessment

Additional Curriculum

- (1) *Colin Marshall, *Growth Groups: A Training Course* (Elders and BF leaders)
- (2) Acts 17 Elder Study (Elders)
- (3) Deacon Study (Deacons)
- (4) Deaconess Study (Deaconesses)

⁴ A substitute would be to listen to Wayne Grudem teaching on the following chapters in his *Systematic Theology* book at his church in Arizona: 2-8, 10-14, 18-20, 22, 24, 26-30, 28-30, 32-43, 44-50. These can be accessed at www.christianessentialsbc.com/messages/systematic_theology.

⁵ If you have read David Helm, *One-To-One Bible Reading* and been through at least one Bible book with someone else, this will serve as a substitute.

⁶ If you have read R. Kent Hughes, *Disciplines Of A Godly Man*, this serves as a substitute.

⁷ This requires *The New City Catechism* app, which is free and includes all 52 questions and answers, along with scriptural proofs. It also includes two different readings for each question and answer. We will discuss each question and answer, along with the contemporary reading that accompanies each. We will cover all 52 in ten weeks. If you have already been through the catechism with someone else, that would serve as a substitute.

⁸ Supplemental videos are available for this book at 4chairdisciplining.com/videos. These are especially helpful if you choose to read the book apart from a *Stratēgoi* group.