

Basic I Course Description

The Elijah House Basic I School of Prayer Ministry consists of 24 lessons. Videos are actual recordings of a “live school” in 2003. They feature John & Paula Sandford and many other Elijah House teachers. Three “demo” tapes add a closer look at actual ministry situations. Small group meetings, also a vital part of the training, give students practical ministry experience. A brief description of each lesson follows.

Major Areas of Teaching

Scriptural Foundations of Ministry

Although all of our lessons are Biblically based, they focus primarily on Renewal of the Mind from God's truth and principles of the Inner Healing process (Sanctification and Transformation).

Elements of Ministry

Elements of Ministry lessons focus primarily on learning basic ministry skills and wisdom in using them.

Keys of Knowledge for Healing the Heart

The “Keys of Knowledge” focus primarily on “unlocking the doors of our heart” to allow healing, repentance, reconciliation and inner transformation to the unbelieving areas of the believers heart. They are revelations the Lord brought John and Paula Sandford, and can be found throughout their books. The “Keys of Knowledge” are not mere intellectual or academic concepts, but are profound, essential spiritual truths to be written on our hearts and walked out in our daily lives.

Basic I Lesson Briefs

Biblical Basis of Elijah House Ministry

God has written His fundamental laws into the universe from the beginning of time. They are absolute and eternal, and affect our lives as surely as gravity. They operate whether we believe them or not. This lesson outlines the four major laws of God that Elijah House Prayer Ministry is based upon. We briefly explain how they apply in our lives, but each will be taught in greater depth during other lessons.

Ingredients of Ministry

Prayer ministry is a Holy Spirit-led process that involves the following ingredients: recognition and confession of sin, repentance, forgiveness, reckoning sinful habits as dead on the cross, comfort, prayer, discipline to walk in a new way, support from small groups, and when necessary, deliverance. Though all are essential, the order and presence of each element during ministry is directed by the Holy Spirit. Prayer, spoken aloud with the person, is at the center of the ministry process.

Bitter Roots

Bitter root judgments are powerful driving forces behind many recurring patterns of trouble and destruction in our lives. Discover in this lesson how they work together with God's unchangeable law of “sowing and reaping” to reap in kind what we have sown. Learn also how bitter root expectancies, which operate on the psychological level, also rob us of the abundant life Jesus came to give us.

Basic Trust

Basic trust is the first and foremost stage of human developmental. Without basic trust, each succeeding stage of human development is hindered. Learn how failure to acquire basic trust affects us throughout our adult lives, impacting our ability to relate to God and others

Forgiveness

This lesson makes the necessity of forgiveness clear. We learn how resentments become lodged in the heart and, once entrenched, require a work of God's grace to remove. We discover the main stumbling blocks to forgiveness and how to let God be the judge and jury, freeing us from the burden of holding the resentment and requiring justice.

Repentance and Restitution

Repentance is more than simply being sorry. In this lesson we look at the distinctions between remorse, Saulish repentance (fear of the consequences), and Davidic repentance (true sorrow for grieving the Lord). In addition, we look at restitution, God's strategy for helping us to come to full repentance, restore trust in relationships, and write the cost of sin on our hearts.

Honoring Father and Mother

In Hebrew, "honor" *okabod* means to make glorious; in Greek, it is *timee* : to place high value or price upon. The law of honoring affects our lives more powerfully than we realize. To honor your father and mother is the 5th commandment, and the first one with a promise—"that life would go well with you." But who can honor parents who are abusive, addicted to drugs or alcohol, or have broken our trust? This powerful lesson brings godly balance and understanding to honoring our parents.

How We See God

How can we see an invisible God? In this lesson we discover how fathers and mothers model a picture of God for us. We learn to "see" what God is like by what they say and do. Over time, we form judgments and expectations, which distort what God is really like, as if we are looking at Him through "tinted spectacles." We learn how we can see God more clearly.

Performance Orientation

Performance orientation is a term that refers neither to the work we do nor the things we accomplish, but to the false motives, which propel us to do what we do. Once we bring performance orientation to death, we can find worth or value in who we are, not just in what we do. We may do exactly the same work in much the same way, but from entirely different reasons. In this lesson we explore the roots, identify the symptoms and examine the damage this problem causes.

Parental Inversion and Substitute Mate

Parental inversion and substitute mate describes the false identity children take on when a parent is unable or unwilling to fulfill his/her parental role. The parentally inverted child will carry the weight of care and responsibility meant for the father or mother. The role of substitute mate is a more serious type of parental inversion, where a parent relies inappropriately on a child for emotional comfort, as a confidant, and in severe cases, for physical satisfaction. Learn in this lesson the destructive impact these false roles or identities have later in life and how healing and restoration is accomplished.

Inner Vows and Heart of Stone

Inner vows are promises made to oneself early in life and then often forgotten. They act as directives that control our responses to situations and people around us. It is out of our inner vows that a "heart of stone" is formed. This is a powerful lesson, exposing the lie that we can protect ourselves from hurt by withdrawing inside these false protective mechanisms.

Identifications of Love

Identifications of love are those words, gestures, actions and attitudes we interpret as love from others. Learn how these "packages" become idols that define and limit our idea of what true love is to us. When we demand these "packages" of love from those around us, we practice unregenerate love, denying ourselves the full joy in giving and receiving true love.

Ministry Skills: Interviewing, Listening & Prayer

When is it time to ask questions, to listen, and to pray? This lesson offers practical instruction on integrating the interview process with listening and prayer.

Slumbering Spirit

This lesson helps us understand the functions of our own personal or human spirit. If our spirit is not fully awake, we will not be able to function as God created us to do in various areas of life. In this lesson we learn how to distinguish between soul and spirit, how to identify the symptoms of a slumbering spirit, what causes the spirit to slumber, and what steps can be taken to awaken slumbering spirits.

Spiritual Rebellion

We are all, to some degree, in spiritual rebellion. We are all angry with God about something, and in need of being reconciled to Him. This lesson explores the ways in which we reject our lives and ourselves, rebelling against God who created us and gives us life. It identifies some of the attitudes that indicate this condition and discuss the ramifications of this sin in our lives.

Burden Bearing

We are all to bear one another's burdens, but some are especially called by the Lord to do so. This lesson discusses the gift of burden bearing, and explores the character and experience of the burden-bearing personality, including the wounding that occurs when the gift is misunderstood or misappropriated. Healing the wounded burden bearer requires prayer for healing of the wounded spirit, as well as teaching and training in the gift.

Cutting Free

Many of us know God has a plan for our lives and have heard God's call. Few understand how to achieve or carry that out. We may know the direction and see the destination in the distance, but feel tied down, without the freedom to pursue it. This lesson looks at some areas in our lives, which may be keeping us down from becoming all that God created us to be.

Personal and Corporate Strongholds

Strongholds are deeply embedded thought patterns that are formidable obstacles to the healing process. They are both personal and corporate, and can have lives of their own. In this lesson, we look at the origin of strongholds and the part the mind plays in blocking our relationship with God. We will look at scriptural models for entering into warfare against the strongholds that hold us captive as individuals, groups, and even as entire nations.

Deliverance & Inner Healing

Deliverance is often a necessary and practical part of the process of inner healing (sanctification and transformation). This lesson seeks to correct the abuses and misunderstandings that fuel the conflict between the two areas, and offers scriptural support for integrating them appropriately. Reconciliation between the fields of deliverance and inner healing will help to bring freedom, wholeness and maturity to the Body of Christ.

Healing Relationships to Authority

Issues with authority and/or people in authority seem to be the proverbial "thorn in the side" of many people, damaging what is meant to be a God-ordained relationship, full of blessing and protection. This lesson is a foundational teaching on the Biblical principles of true authority, whether one is in authority or under authority, and seeks to bring healing and reconciliation with the Author Himself, as well as with His appointed servants.

Denial

This lesson explores both the nature and the root causes of denial. It provides a scriptural base for understanding and healing when restoration is blocked by patterns of denial. It also outlines six different types of denial systems and how to minister to those in denial.

Rightly Handling Emotions

This lesson looks to Jesus as a model for dealing with our own human emotions. Through His responses in the Garden of Gethsemane, we explore some of the wrong attitudes we have about our own emotional life. We will learn what emotions are, how to identify and accept them, as well as how to express them appropriately. When we learn to do this as Jesus did, it becomes possible for us to share who we truly are with others.

Common Errors of Ministry

As ministers of healing, one must accept that we will not always minister rightly. We must learn to be able to rest in the fact that God is our Redeemer (thus the redeemer of our mistakes), our Savior and our Comforter. This lesson describes some of the many ways we can act outside the will of God while ministering to others and teaches us how to recognize and be aware of what God is doing in an individual's life.

Sealing Our Healing

This lesson illustrates numerous disciplines by which we can help maintain our healing and further develop our relationship with the Lord. These disciplines will strengthen new and healthy habits to replace old and sinful patterns in our lives. The healing process of prayer ministry would be incomplete without understanding the need for ongoing support in this vital area.