



Meck**Institute**

— FALL'19

Whether you're exploring the Christian faith or have been in a relationship with God for decades, there will always remain so much to discover about God. Wouldn't it be great to have a place where you could get your questions answered, learn to engage with the Bible and grow spiritually?

WELL, THERE IS!

It's called the Meck Institute.



WE'VE DEVELOPED TWO PATHWAYS OF STUDY: A MAJOR IN DISCIPLESHIP AND A MINOR IN FAMILY.

Each route has core classes and elective classes that provide you an easy roadmap for learning. While some classes are prioritized over others for each pathway, every class is designed to help you know God better and develop your relationship with Him. With everything from finances to marriage, biblical studies to raising kids, you'll receive a robustly diverse education in the topics that matter most in life. And new this year to the Institute are classes for KIDS!

In the Meck Institute, our goal is to help you learn about God so that you can live the life of purpose and significance that you were created to live. If you're new to the Meck Institute, we'd suggest you start with the "Training Camp" class.

AND IN ADDITION TO LEARNING A TON ABOUT GOD AND KICKSTARTING YOUR SPIRITUAL LIFE, THERE ARE OTHER PERKS TO TAKING MECK INSTITUTE CLASSES:

Most of them are completely FREE!

All classes are taught by trained, knowledgeable instructors.

Childcare and dinner are offered for most classes at a minimal expense.

You'll meet other great people while learning about God.

Anyone can attend!

Inside this catalog, you'll find the course syllabi. However, we're always adding new classes, so to view the most updated list, be sure to visit mecklenburg.org/classes or the Meck App.

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED, SO PLEASE REGISTER ONLINE OR ON THE MECK APP.

MAJOR IN DISCIPLESHIP

If we study the life of Jesus and His disciples, we see a beautiful balance of intentional Bible study and community learning. Jesus encouraged Christ-followers to unleash God's leadership into every area of their life, including relationships, finances and our inner world. Because of that, we have designed our Major in Discipleship program to reflect a well-rounded education with six course classes and then your choice of seven more from our elective categories.

CORE CLASSES: *Take one class*

- ☐ EXPLORING THE BIBLE
- ☐ FOUNDATIONS 101
- ☐ GAME TIME *(formerly "Find Your Fit")*
- ☐ LEARNING TO PRAY
- ☐ TEAMLIFE
- ☐ TRAINING CAMP

ELECTIVE CLASSES:

APOLOGETICS & EVANGELISM: *Take one class*

- ☐ CHRISTIANITY AND OTHER WORLDVIEWS
- ☐ CONVERSATIONS ABOUT TRUTH, LIFE AND FAITH
- ☐ HOW TO SHARE YOUR FAITH WITHOUT BEING WEIRD *(coming soon)*

THE BIBLE: *Take two classes*

- ☐ HOW TO STUDY AND INTERPRET THE BIBLE
(recommended prerequisite: Exploring the Bible)
- ☐ "THE BIG PICTURE" BIBLE STUDY SERIES
(only one class required)
- ☐ TTB7: THRU THE BIBLE IN 7 WEEKS *(coming soon)*

CHRISTIAN GROWTH: *Take two classes*

- ☐ HOW TO DEAL WITH CONFLICT
- ☐ MADE FOR MORE
- ☐ THE MEANING OF MANHOOD

THE CHURCH: *Take one class*

- ☐ CHURCH HISTORY *(coming soon)*
- ☐ FOUNDATIONS 201 *(recommended prerequisite: Foundations 101)*
- ☐ STARTING LINE

FINANCES: *Take one class*

- ☐ FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY OR FPU FLEX
- ☐ MONEY GOD'S WAY
- ☐ MONEY SEEDS *(for high school and college students)*

MINOR IN FAMILY

God designed the family to be the cornerstone of relational institutions, but it is constantly under attack by the world around us. We designed the Minor in Family track to help you keep God at the forefront of your marital and parenting relationships, learning how to reflect Him through your family to the rest of the world. If you are a parent, you will complete the minor once your children are school age and you have taken the two required core classes (three if you begin as an engaged couple) and four elective classes.

CORE CLASSES: *Take all that apply*

- ☐ **ENGAGED COUPLES:** MARRIAGE PREP
- ☐ **MARRIED COUPLES:** ROOTED: FOUNDATIONS OF A STRONG MARRIAGE
- ☐ **PARENTS:** PARENTING WITH A MISSION

ELECTIVE CLASSES:

ENGAGED AND MARRIED COUPLES: *Take one class*

- ☐ THE MEANING OF MANHOOD
- ☐ MONEY GOD'S WAY OR FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

PARENTS OF NEWBORNS TO TWO YEAR OLDS: *Take two classes*

- ☐ BABY DEDICATION PREP *(for parents of children birth to one year old; prerequisite: TeamLife)*
- ☐ INTENTIONAL PARENTING *(prerequisite: Parenting with a Mission)*
- ☐ THE MEANING OF MANHOOD
- ☐ MISSIONAL MOTHERHOOD *(coming soon)*
- ☐ MONEY GOD'S WAY or FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

PARENTS OF PRE-K AND SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN: *Take two classes*

- ☐ EXPLORING HOMESCHOOLING
- ☐ INTENTIONAL PARENTING *(prerequisite: Parenting with a Mission)*
- ☐ THE MEANING OF MANHOOD
- ☐ MISSIONAL MOTHERHOOD *(coming soon)*
- ☐ MONEY GOD'S WAY or FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY
- ☐ RAISING MONEY-SMART KIDS
- ☐ WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT TECHNOLOGY AND KIDS



MAJOR IN DISCIPLESHIP

CORE CLASSES

• • •

EXPLORING THE BIBLE

Can we trust the Bible? After all, it's really old! Is it still relevant to our lives? And what is it about? How does it all fit together? And where do we even begin? It's a pretty big book! All of these questions and more are answered in Exploring the Bible. Our main goal is to capture the big picture of God's story and to find ourselves in it. Whether you are still checking out the claims of Christ or you've been following Him for 20 years, this class is for you.

4-Session Course

FOUNDATION 101

What is at the heart of the Christian faith? Who is God really and what does He want with us (if anything at all)? In Foundations 101, we lay the groundwork for what the Christian life is all about. Whether you're in exploration mode or a devout follower of Christ, we all need to learn the essence of why we were created and if there really is a supernatural God. This class strips God from our cultural context, from church tradition and from media portrayal to take a look at what He says about Himself and about us.

1-Session Course





GAME TIME

Ready to get off the bench and into the game? Take Game Time. You were made with a plan and a purpose and equipped with a unique combination of gifts, passions, personality and skills. Yet it sometimes can be difficult to figure out exactly how God wants to use you or what role you might play in His big adventure. Join us for Game Time to examine the person God made you to be and how you can make a real difference with your life.

1-Session Course

LEARNING TO PRAY

For many of us, prayer is hard. We're not sure how to do it or if it even works, so we simply give up. If you've ever wrestled with prayer, you won't want to miss this class. We'll cover everything from what prayer is to how to pray and whether it even works.

2-Session Course

TEAMLIFE

TeamLife is a class that shares Meck's history, beliefs, mission and how you can take the steps to make Meck your church home. Meck is made up of people from many different spiritual backgrounds; some with extensive church backgrounds, others who are brand new to church, and many in between. With this in mind, TeamLife is designed to clearly explain the history and heart of Meck and what it means to be a member.

1-Session Course

TRAINING CAMP

Training Camp: You've made the big decision to trust God and allow Jesus to be the leader of your life. But now what? How do you begin to develop a genuine relationship with a supernatural God? What should the Christian life look like in your everyday reality? In Training Camp, we'll discuss what God expects of us and how we can rise above the cultural stereotypes of Christianity to pursue authentic lives marked by Jesus.

1-Session Course



MAJOR IN DISCIPLESHIP

ELECTIVE CLASSES



THE BIBLE

GENESIS: IN THE BEGINNING ("THE BIG PICTURE" BIBLE STUDY SERIES)

You may think your story began a few decades ago, but to get at the heart of who you really are and what your purpose is, we need to go back to the beginning... to the very beginning. Join us for the first series in "The Big Picture" Bible Study Series - a 6-week journey through the book of Genesis, where we'll unpack themes such as: being made in the image of God, the theology of sin and its effects, the purpose of mankind, the way the world was meant to be and more.

6-Session Course

HOW TO STUDY AND INTERPRET THE BIBLE

God has given us the Bible as the greatest instruction manual of all time. It's entirely inspired by God and filled with truth and life. As you dig into the Bible, you'll become closer to God, and its words will transform your life. It's exciting stuff, but where do you begin? It can be hard to know how to study the Bible and what tools you should even use. Take away the intimidation by joining us for a three-session course about how to study the Bible. We'll discuss the steps to effective Bible study, the differences between a concordance and a commentary, provide suggested resources, give practical study tips, and answer all of your questions along the way. We're confident you'll walk away loving the gift of God's Word even more.

3-Session Course

Recommended Prerequisite: Exploring the Bible

APOLOGETICS AND EVANGELISM

CHRISTIANITY AND OTHER WORLDVIEWS

In this series, we focus on comparative worldviews. Each week, we'll look at the core beliefs of various faith systems and see how they stack up to Christianity. The goal is to better understand the faith of our family, friends, coworkers and neighbors who believe differently than we do in order that we might better share with them the good news of Jesus. The specific worldviews we'll focus on include: Mormonism, Jehovah's Witnesses, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, New Age Spiritualism and Judaism.

4-Session Course

CONVERSATIONS ABOUT TRUTH, FAITH AND LIFE:

Let's back up. Before we start to talk about the God of the Bible, can we talk about some other important questions that need to be answered? What is truth? What role does faith play in life? What is the purpose of life? Why the need for a god at all? In this conversation group, you'll have a safe platform to explore all things related to truth, faith and life. You'll be encouraged to think deeply about your worldview, your purpose, your life experiences and how you live each day. This group is perfect for people who want to discuss life's deepest questions – including the question of God – in a safe, judgment-free zone.

7-Session Course

HOW TO SHARE YOUR FAITH WITHOUT BEING WEIRD

Jesus commissioned all Christ-followers with the joy and responsibility of telling others about Him. So why do many of us find this to be so difficult? Fear, insecurity, intimidation - all of these can be boundaries, not to mention the difficulty of navigating the changing beliefs of culture and biblical truth. In this class, you'll confront the barriers that are keeping you from sharing about Jesus and practically learn how to navigate conversations of faith.

2-Session Course



CHRISTIAN GROWTH

HOW TO DEAL WITH CONFLICT

There are few words that illicit a more emotional response than the word "conflict." Some love conflict and even go looking for opportunities to argue. Others get a sick feeling in their stomach at the very thought and avoid it like the plague. Conflict, though, is an inevitable part of life in this world of imperfect people. We frustrate, disappoint and even hurt one another. So, how do we navigate conflict in a healthy and helpful way? Does the Bible have anything to say on the matter? In this two-session course, we'll explore the different types of conflict, how to begin difficult conversations, and how to work towards resolution and reconciliation.

2-Session Course

MADE FOR MORE

Have you ever tried to put together a 1,000-piece jigsaw puzzle without looking at the picture on the box? If you haven't, don't! It's maddening. If you don't know where you're going, you don't know where to begin or how to make any sort of progress. That's kind of how growing in your faith can feel sometimes. We don't know where we're going, so we really don't know where to begin or how to make progress. What kind of people are we trying to become? What is the picture on the box? In this class, we talk about the picture God has in mind for us and His plan for getting us there. We'll talk about how to begin living the full lives God intended for us.

4-Session Course

THE MEANING OF MANHOOD

In today's culture, the biblical meaning and values associated with being a man are becoming blurred and challenged. This training series will discuss the importance of defining manhood, understanding the roles and responsibilities that go along with being a man, as well as the benefits of being in community with other men. Through this class you will learn a biblical definition of manhood, gain several tools to help implement this definition, and leave with a better understanding of the true meaning of manhood.

3-Session Course

THE CHURCH

FOUNDATIONS 201

Christians often make the mistake of assuming that having a personal relationship with Christ means that we have a private relationship with Christ. Nothing could be further from the truth. In this class, we talk about the role that God designed us to play within the community of other believers. We'll talk about the dynamics of the Church, the process of discipleship and mentoring, the responsibilities that Christians have to one another, and more. Our hope is that this class introduces you to the powerful community that Christ-followers are a part of within the Body of Christ.

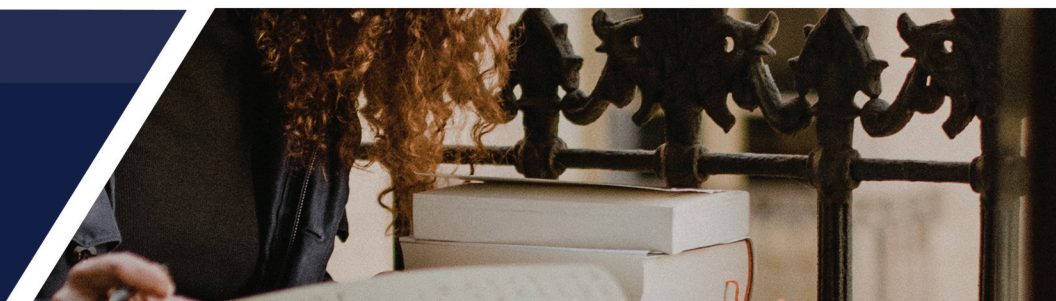
2-Session Course

Recommended prerequisite: Foundations 101

STARTING LINE

Whether you're new to Meck or have been attending for a while, join us for Starting Line to learn more about all that Meck has to offer. When it comes to getting involved and connected to the amazing things happening at Meck, Starting Line is the best place to begin.

1-Session Course



FINANCES

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

Whether you're experiencing the crushing weight of financial stress or you're simply looking to better manage your money, Financial Peace University is the class for you. This course offers practical steps to handling your finances in a God-honoring way. Join the countless lives that have been changed by finding freedom from debt.

9-Session Course

FPU FLEX

This Financial Peace University class is a modified version of the traditional class, where the participants watch the FPU videos at home in exchange for a shorter class and more time for class group discussion.

9-Session Course

MONEY GOD'S WAY

Jesus talked about it more than prayer. He also talked about it more than faith. Why would Jesus put such an emphasis on money? Does He want us to be rich? Does He want us to give everything away? Wherever you are with money, this class is designed to put a new perspective on the topic so you can learn what it means to manage money God's way. We'll unpack budgeting, debt management, insurance, investing and more in a practical, yet biblical way.

1-Session Course

MONEY SEEDS (FOR HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STUDENTS)

As you approach or are embracing financial independence, you might quickly learn that there's a lot more to money management than meets the eye. In Money Seeds, we will walk through responsible and biblical financial practices such as budgeting, saving, investing and more. This is a class you won't get to take in school but that you absolutely need for the real world. Set your financial portfolio off on the right foot by starting with Money Seeds.

1-Session Course



MINOR IN FAMILY

CORE CLASSES



MARRIAGE PREP

Marriage Prep is a course designed to help couples get ready, not just for the big day but for a lifelong, Christ-centered marriage. If you are planning to be married by a Meck pastor, Marriage Prep is a required part of our premarital process. However, we encourage any engaged couple to participate.

6-Session Course

PARENTING WITH A MISSION


So much of parenting seems like a matter of survival; getting through each day, providing our kids with their immediate needs and trying to stay sane in the process. Rarely do we ever stop and consider the biblical goal of parenting, the big vision that helps us orient our daily decisions. Without that vision, we merely float around the water instead of ever reaching a destination. In this course, we'll examine God's vision for parenting and how we can take practical steps to see that vision come to life in our families. Once you have the correct target on the wall, each day of parenting will be missional, purposeful and fulfilling.

3-Session Course

ROOTED: FOUNDATIONS OF A STRONG MARRIAGE

Marriage is an incredible gift. Nevertheless, when the honeymoon ends and the rest of your life together begins, it takes time and intentionality to keep your marriage strong. How do you navigate conflict? How do you demonstrate love and respect? How do you balance your time? In this course, we'll talk about how to build a marriage with such deep roots that when the trials and challenges of life come your way, your relationship will stand firm.

3-Session Course





MINOR IN FAMILY

ELECTIVE CLASSES



BABY DEDICATION PREP

During a baby dedication, parents make a public commitment to raise their baby to grow up to know, love and serve Christ. It's a great way to mark the beginning of a parent's journey with their new baby! And as your church, this is a way for us to support you as you seek to raise your child in a Christ-centered home. In this class, you'll learn more about the baby dedication ceremony, dream big for your child, and learn how to make those dreams a reality.

1-Session Course (required for any family wanting to participate in the Baby Dedication ceremony)

Prerequisite: TeamLife

EXPLORING HOMESCHOOLING

You can go to an open house to find out more about a public, private or charter school but where do you go to find out more about homeschooling? In this 90-minute class, Exploring Homeschooling aims to answer the real, practical questions many families have as they consider this education option. If you're a parent considering homeschooling you've probably wondered about things like: How do you choose curriculum? What about socializing your kids? How about sports? Is it expensive? How do I get started? Are there laws you have to follow? Why homeschool anyway? Join us as we explore the answers to these questions and more.

1-Session Course



INTENTIONAL PARENTING

Every parent has dreams for their children. As parents, we all start out with the best intentions. But at some point, we move from dreams to duct tape and hope that each day everything will just stick together. Raising kids in today's culture is a difficult challenge and it requires a plan. Without a plan, parents usually default to quick-fix parenting because it's just easier to focus on immediate problems rather than deal with the deeper and more important ones. In this course, instructors will guide you through 10 specific actions that will help you become a more effective, intentional parent.

5-Session Course

Recommended prerequisite: Parenting with a Mission

RAISING MONEY-SMART KIDS

Have you ever wondered if you're making a meaningful impact on your kids' lives financially? When they leave the nest, are they going to be ready to fly? We believe that the Bible imparts significant wisdom in this area. Combine Biblical principles and real-world knowledge and you get this class. We want to share with you what some of the best Christian minds are thinking about how to raise money-smart kids. The schools won't teach this to your kids. They likely won't learn it on their own. Join us for this class... your kids will thank you later and your "empty nest" will remain empty. Parents with children from Pre-K to high school are encouraged to attend.

1-Session Course

WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT TECHNOLOGY AND KIDS

Does your son or daughter have a smartphone? Or maybe a tablet? With access to more and more technology comes the world of social media. As a parent, it can be hard to keep up with, much less navigate, what social media platforms your kids are using these days. In this extremely practical seminar, we'll provide an introduction to the most commonly used social media outlets, explain the potential dangers of each and give some practical suggestions on what you as a parent can do to help guide your kids.

3-Session Course

MECK INSTITUTE for Kids



The Meck Institute now has classes for kids!
Choose one of the classes below and register online
at **mecklenburg.org/classes** or on the **Meck app**.

CASE FOR CHRIST FOR KIDS

Is Jesus real? How do you know? Those are just a couple of the questions that your 4th-6th graders will tackle in this new Institute for Kids class as they journey alongside an investigative journalist to unearth truth at a level they can understand.

4-Session Course | Space limited

GOD'S CRIME SCENE FOR KIDS

In this class, 4th-6th grade students will go undercover as detectives who investigate the beginnings of our existence and Who created the world.

4-Session Course | Space limited

LIGHT IT UP

In this class, kids in 3rd-5th grade will get to learn about what it means to be a light for God in our world. As they're learning, they'll also get to create their own tangible lamps as a representation of the influence God wants them to have on those around them.

3-Session Course | Space limited



Check **mecklenburg.org/classes** for more
Meck Institute for Kids classes.



So...what are you waiting for?

REGISTER TODAY.

mecklenburg.org/classes

MECK INSTITUTE

EST.

1992

CHARLOTTE