

## WSU Christian Challenge Summer Intensive *Strategic Outline*

### **Overview:**

The Summer Intensive is an eight-week program designed to challenge college students to develop spiritual rhythms, wisdom, character, theological sharpness, a disciple-making perspective, and a commitment to long-term service in the local church. The program seeks to saturate students in an environment that will help them develop sustainable, life-long habits that will benefit the Kingdom of God and the local church.

### **Requirements:**

Participants must be ***traditional college students or college-aged individuals who are planning to be in Wichita for the duration of the program.***

Participants are ***required to work at a job/internship or take college classes for the duration of the program.*** The sum of these two activities should amount to a full-time workload (+30 hours per week). For example, a person could work 30 hours per week at a job/internship *or* they could work 20 hours per week and take 6 credit hours of classes *or* they could take 12 credit hours of classes.

Participants ***must be financially self-sustaining*** for the duration of the Intensive. Participants will not raise support. The cost to participate in the Intensive is \$100, which goes to cover the cost of a few meals and various materials for the summer. The fee is due at the Orientation Meeting on Thursday, May 9.

***Participants must be committed to attending all of the training.*** The program is not designed so that participants can pick and choose to participate in certain parts of the program, but not others. While we understand that unforeseen events (family emergencies, serious illnesses, etc.) may come up, *we expect participants to build each scheduled meeting into their personal calendar at the start of the summer and protect it from other commitments.* Participants should prioritize scheduled program activities over social events, recreational activities, homework, and job-scheduling conflicts. If a participant already has an existing conflict for the summer (family vacation, out-of-state wedding, etc.), he/she should notify Christian Challenge staff at the time of registration.

**The deadline to register for the Intensive is April 25.**

### **Structure:**

#### *Orientation*

Intensive participants are required to attend a Summer Intensive Orientation Meeting on Thursday, May 9 at 7 PM at River Community Church.

### *Kick-Off Meeting*

The Intensive will officially begin with a Kick-Off Luncheon on Sunday, June 2 at 12:30 PM at River Community Church. Participants are not required to stay in Wichita between May 9 and June 2, but they will be expected to complete some pre-Intensive reading and reflection during this time. The Intensive will begin on June 2 and conclude on July 28.

Each week of the Summer Intensive will consist of the following activities:

#### *Practical Life Training - Each Tuesday Night, 7-8:30 PM*

Practical Life Training will seek to help students develop a Christian perspective and practical skills in different areas of daily life (i.e. being faithful with your money, balancing work/family/ministry, developing a resilient life, communication strategies for effective relationships, how to live faithfully in a sexualized culture, etc.). These sessions will be led by Christian Challenge staff members, River Community Church staff members, or members of River Community Church.

#### *Small Groups - Each Thursday Night, 7-9 PM*

Small groups will hold each other to a *high level of accountability* with regard to daily practice of the following spiritual disciplines: Bible reading, Scripture memory, prayer, and evangelism. Small groups will also discuss questions from *The Fuel and the Flame* by Paul Worcester and Steve Shadrach. Participants will need to read two or three chapters of this book per week in preparation for small group meetings.

#### *Missional Outreach - Each Friday or Saturday Night*

Each small group will plan a fun, social event on a weekly basis and strategically invite non-believing friends and/or coworkers to attend. Alternatively, groups may choose to go to a public venue and initiate new relationships with non-believers. The focus of these events will be building trust relationships and moving toward Gospel conversations with non-believers.

#### *Service in the Local Church - At Least Every Other Sunday Morning*

Participants will fulfill a formal service role (worship team, café team, Super Church teacher, etc.) at River Community Church on at least a bi-weekly basis. Students who are members of other churches in Wichita will be encouraged to pursue service opportunities at their respective home churches.

#### *Seminars - Once in June and Once in July*

In addition to the weekly commitments noted above, the Intensive will include two theological seminars. The first seminar will be held on Saturday, June 15 from 9:30-11 AM.

The second seminar will be held on Saturday, July 6 from 9:30-11 AM. These seminars will focus on theological, apologetic, and/or cultural issues. Seminars will replace missional gatherings on the week in which they occur.

*Meals with a Mentor Family - Once per month*

Intensive participants will be paired up and introduced to a family from River Community Church at the Kick-Off Luncheon. The family will host them for dinner at least once per month during the training. The goal of this time is to help students understand and begin to develop healthy perspectives about the nature of life, family, and ministry after college.

*End-of-Training Luncheon*

Participants will celebrate completing the Intensive at an End-of-Training Luncheon on Sunday, July 28 at 12:30 PM.

*Individual Debriefing, Goal-Setting, and Feedback Meetings with Staff*

Individual participants will meet with a Christian Challenge staff person after the conclusion of the Intensive in order to: 1) Debrief their Intensive experience, 2) Synthesize lessons they have learned and develop a strategic and sustainable plan for growth moving forward, 3) Give feedback about their Summer Intensive experience.