



TERM 4
Learning and Living Jesus
January - May 2028

Instructor: Dr. Richard Hovey
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Retreat Dates/Location:
April 27-30, 2028 on Deer Island, NB

Note: For our Retreat Weekend arrival is on Thursday evening (April 27) for a time of welcome, settling in and an opening devotion time together. We will end our retreat time with lunch on Sunday (April 30).

Course Description: Jesus lived a holy and virtuous life before Father God in the flesh. We know Jesus is God, but sometimes we forget he was also fully human. In his humanness he lived virtuously. In this course we will go deeper in looking at our unique personalities, including the virtues and vices we face. Each student will then articulate a plan (rule of life) for themselves which will aid them in cultivating a virtuous life.

Objectives:

- To create space to honestly evaluate our strengths and weaknesses when it comes to living out our faith.
- To establish a way forward in growth and maturity in practically loving God and others in the day to day.
- To further reflect upon the heart of God and the shaping of our own heart after God's.

Course Texts (in reading order):

God Soaked Life: discovering a kingdom spirituality by Chris Webb

Compassion: a reflection on the Christian life by Nouwen, McNeill and Morrison

Practicing the Way: be with Jesus, become like him, do as he did by John Mark Comer

Raw Spirituality: the rhythms of the Jesus life by Tom Smith

Assignments:

- In a short paper, respond to your enneagram assessment. What resonated? What surprised you? Would you consider yourself to be 'healthy' in relation to your enneagram description? We will take a time at our retreat to discuss and unpack the enneagram together. (500 words). Due: February 29 2028.
- Write a personal response paper on Webb's *God Soaked Life* OR Nouwen's *Compassion*, providing a reflective response to the material, noting aspects that spoke to you specifically or to which you found yourself struggling or disagreeing. (750 words). Due: May 31 2028.
- Write your Rule of Life. A Rule establishes a rhythm for life which is helpful for being formed by the Spirit, a rhythm that reflects a love for God and respect for how he has made us. The practices which we build into our rhythm of life help us to shed the "old self" and allow our "new self" in Christ to be formed. The steps for this assignment will be discussed at our retreat weekend. Due: June 30 2028.

Devotional Reading/Small Group Involvement:

Another element of 'Consumed' is having an active devotional life which finds expression in community. Throughout the program participants will be encouraged to work through the Renovaré Spiritual Formation Guides as well as *Spiritual Classics* and *Devotional Classics*. There are four books in the Spiritual Formation Guides: *Learning from Jesus*, *Connecting with God*, *Prayer and Worship*, and *Living the Mission*. Over the duration of year two in Consumed, students will work through the last two of these books, meeting weekly with a small group via Zoom to discuss and encourage one another in the devotional material as well as the course texts.

Devotional Reading Year 2:

- *Prayer and Worship* - Fall 2027
- *Living the Mission* - Winter 2028

