

School of Ministry

This help file will take you through the following:

- ∞ It will define Full & Abridged versions of the course material
- ∞ Those qualified to teach the School of Ministry version
- ∞ Partner Church users
- ∞ The use of the multimedia suite
- ∞ The online quiz

Full & Abridged versions

The full versions of VBI courses have the following characteristics.

- ∞ They average about 150 pages of A4 (similar to Letter size)
- ∞ They are written generally by PhD or Masters qualified authors and teachers
- ∞ They are written for the Diploma, Advanced Diploma and Bachelors degree levels.

School of Ministry Abridged versions have the following characteristics:

- ∞ They average about 30 pages of A4 (similar to Letter size)
- ∞ They are written by VBI personnel who have extracted the essential content of the full version.
- ∞ They are available as downloads, in the form of .pdf files
- ∞ They are also available as hard copy published versions through Vineyard Resources in the USA.

Those qualified to teach

Those who teach these courses should be graduates of the same course (not the whole curriculum), of at least Diploma level. If you find yourself in possession of a School of Ministry course and those who are teaching or facilitating the group experience are not graduates of that course, then you are being short-changed.

Partner Church users

There are basically two types of users:

1. Members of Partner Churches, or their affiliates, and
2. Licensed Teachers.

Another presentation and text file will describe the Licensed Teacher program. Basically it relates to developing countries, and/or where English is the second or third language.

- ∞ Partner Churches will usually be in the USA or the UK, or other countries where there are established associations of churches.
- ∞ Partner Churches have obtained the rights to use the entire School of Ministry curriculum (plus a limited number of scholarships for the Diploma and Advanced Diploma levels).
- ∞ Users in these churches obtain the courses via a coupon, issued by the partner church, which means they incur no cost from VBI.
- ∞ The Partner Churches allocate fees to their members. They also determine various other things: who teaches, what courses are taught, the schedule, etc.

“Purchasing” your course

Since you obtain your course using a coupon, there is no actual purchase. However, you will need to download the course using the VBI online purchasing system.

Another help file called “How to purchase a course” will take you through that process step-by-step. This file is for users at all levels.

The Multimedia Suite

Various types of media are available from VBI. All such media are associated with the full text course, and originate either from the teaching sessions of the original author, or a teacher recognized by VBI as suitably qualified to teach the same content.

There are the following kinds of media:

1. *DVD videos*, which are hardcopy high resolution, obtainable from Vineyard Resources USA, Vineyard Music UK or VBI South Africa.
2. *Quick Time videos*, which are compressed files suitable for internet download and played on a computer sized screen. These are downloads from the VBI site, as are the rest of the media formats.
3. *Flash files* are of the type found in this help menu (talking Power Points).

- ∞ *Powers Point* files.
- ∞ *Mp3* files, voice only, suitable to save onto CD's, mobile phones, PDA's, etc.

The use of such multimedia, which is available to both teachers and users, should be placed within this context:

- ∞ There is no substitute for live teachers, in a class context, where interaction takes place between teacher and class, and amongst the participants. Such media is therefore intended as an aid, not a substitute.
- ∞ The most dysfunctional way to communicate content is to make people listen to endless hours of video lectures. This will gradually increase levels of frustration, and decrease levels of retention.
- ∞ A skilled teacher will use video clips, Power Point presentations, and various models of teaching (small group buzz sessions, ministry time, etc) to produce a fully interactive experience.
- ∞ They may encourage the participants to listen to the Mp3 recordings at home, or view the Flash files, but as noted, these are aids to the process.

The Online Quiz

Registered, paid-up users will have access to the online quiz. The multiple-choice quiz, with approximately 30 questions, can be saved and revisited prior to final submission. Once submitted, it produces an immediate grade, online.

Another help file describes how to do multiple-choice assignments online. The system works the same for users at all levels.