

RON BLUE INSTITUTE

9:23 FELLOWSHIP

Overview

Focus

To develop through personal discipleship and study people who live lives of surrender and followership in their financial and spiritual lives. Each quarter of the fellowship program develops according to a primary focus. All activities are designed to explain, develop, and sharpen that focus in the participants.

Topics

The topics for each quarter frame the primary elements of the focus and guide the various learning activities of the quarter. Here is a brief overview of the four quarters of the 9:23 Fellowship training:

[Quarter 1: Theological Foundations of Money and Possessions](#)

A firm foundation in what the Bible says about money, possessions, generosity, and surrender is necessary to develop an informed life of following Jesus. This quarter will take a deep look at the major themes presented in the Bible around money and possessions.

[Quarter 2: Exploring Generosity and Whole Life Surrender](#)

Moving from a knowledge of God's Word to a life living out those truths begins by exploring generosity and the call of Jesus to follow Him. This quarter will challenge participants to deeply examine whether or not they are living the surrendered life of a follower of Jesus.

[Quarter 3: Modeling and Teaching Personal Finance](#)

This quarter moves from the theoretical to the practical. Now that participants know what the Bible says and whether or not they are obeying it, they can begin to develop a plan for aligning their financial life with their beliefs. A part of this process comes in teaching others the truths participants now understand more fully.

[Quarter 4: Forming a Personal and Cultural Engagement Plan](#)

The capstone project of the program is for each participant to develop a specific plan for putting into practice all that was learned. Many of the participants will implement their plans through their work, ministry, church, or local community.

Readings

Participants will read 2-3 books during each quarter. The books are designed to challenge and convict. Participants are expected to come to each interaction activity prepared to spend some time discussing with one another what they gained from the required reading. Because of the nature of the reading, it is expected that there will be differing reactions and feelings about the books. This is by design. Don't expect to agree with everything that you read, but do expect to be challenged by it.

Videos

Videos are designed to supplement the readings and to bring different points of view. Participants should watch the videos and come prepared to discuss what they have heard.

Activities

Each quarter will include at least one activity or assignment. These activities are intended to force participants to go deeper individually with the content. These exercises are one of the primary tools that will help participants engage with the content and come away with tangible changes for their lives.

Interaction

Every month there will be scheduled time for interaction. Most months this will consist of a few hours in a video conference. Each quarter there will be one extended session that will either be an in person gathering or a longer video-based experience. The primary goal of these sessions is to give participants a chance to interact, engage, and grow.

Plan for Engagement

The 9:23 Fellowship program is not merely a reading program, it is an equipping program intended to ignite active responses and involvement in God's work. The culmination is the guided development of a plan for engagement to put into practice what participants have learned and experienced. With the help of other participants, each person will develop a personal plan to engage their culture for Christ.

9:23 Fellowship Program Time Commitment Estimation

1. Reading	Number of hours depends on speed and comprehension - Up to 2,500 pages
2. Videos	10 hours of video-based content
3. Activities	10-15 hours to fully engage in the activities presented
4. Interactions	10 hours per quarter with the possibility of two out of town trips during the entire program

Quarter One Schedule

Theological Foundations of Money and Possessions

Month One

- Read *Neither Poverty nor Riches* by Craig Blomberg
- Study Matthew 5-7
- Attend monthly check-in video call for prayer and discussion

Month Two

- Read *Money, Possessions, and Eternity* by Randy Alcorn (Chapters 1, 4, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, and Conclusion)
- Complete the Proverbs by Topic exercise
- Attend monthly check-in video call for prayer and discussion

Month Three

- Watch Secret Church 8, The Gospel, Possessions, and Prosperity by David Platt
- Complete the Luke by Topic exercise
- Attend in-person residency training: “Two-Day Seminary” and discussion

Quarter Two Schedule

Exploring Generosity and Whole Life Surrender

Month Four

- Read *Free to Follow* by Michael Blue
- Watch sermon by Paul Washer: Paul Washer - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uuabITeO4I8>
- Study James
- Attend monthly check-in video call for prayer and discussion

Month Five

- Read *CT Studd: Cricketer & Pioneer* by Norman Grubb
- Watch Boasting Only in the Cross by John Piper: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8RUUP_0HiYc
- Study 1 John
- Attend monthly check-in video call for prayer and discussion

Month Six

- Read *Joy Giving* by Cameron Doolittle
- Study 2 Corinthians 7-9
- Complete a life/possessions inventory
- Attend virtual Journey of Generosity hosted by Michael Blue

Quarter Three Schedule

Modeling and Teaching Personal Finance

Month Seven

- Complete the *Financial Hope* Bible study
- Complete the *Simplifying the Money Conversation* booklet
- Study Philippians
- Attend monthly check-in video call for prayer and discussion

Month Eight

- Read *The Choice: The Christ-centered pursuit of kingdom outcomes* by Gary Hoag, Scott Rodin, and Wesley Willmer
- Study Revelation 1-3
- Lead someone through the *Financial Hope* Bible study
- Attend monthly check-in video call for prayer and discussion

Month Nine

- Prepare personal convictions on lifestyle, giving, saving, and debt
- Study Acts 1-5
- Finish leading someone through the *Financial Hope* Bible study
- Attend residency training (virtual)

Quarter Four Schedule

Forming a Personal and Cultural Engagement Plan

Month Ten

- Read *With* by Skye Jethani
- Practice lectio divina
- Attend monthly check-in video call for prayer and discussion

Month Eleven

- Read *Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth* by Richard Foster
- Practice fasting and solitude
- Attend monthly check-in video call for prayer and discussion

Month Twelve

- Watch Helping Without Hurting
 - Part 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a339VZRE3CM>
 - Part 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KyIC9kZldtg>
 - Part 3: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7_JzXbdqKHU
 - Part 4: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=icziYULmHjc>
 - Part 5: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4DIDFymIU-I>
 - Part 6: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZfgZyEhWc28>
- Practice mercy ministries
- Attend residency training in-person

Program Cost

The total cost of the program is \$350 plus costs to attend the two in-person sessions and the cost of books.