

RON BLUE INSTITUTE

9:23 FELLOWSHIP

Overview

Focus

The 9:23 Fellowship exists to develop people through personal discipleship and study to live in surrender and followership in their financial and spiritual lives. Each unit of the 9:23 Fellowship program is designed to explain, develop, and sharpen that focus in the lives of the participants.

Topics

The topics for each unit address this primary focus and guide the various learning activities in the unit. Here is a brief overview of the four units of the 9:23 Fellowship training:

[Unit 1: Biblical Theology of Money and Possessions](#)

A firm foundation in what the Bible says about money, possessions, generosity, and surrender is a crucial element to develop as a disciple who is fully informed and equipped to follow Jesus. This unit will take a deep look at the major themes presented in the Bible around money and possessions and their implications for our life in Christ.

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

Moving from a knowledge of God's Word to living out those truths begins by exploring generosity and the call of Jesus to whole life surrender. This unit will challenge participants to deeply examine their current practices and path to a generous and surrendered life in Christ.

[Unit 3: Modeling Biblical Personal Finance](#)

This unit moves from the theoretical to the practical. Now that participants know what the Bible says and how they will obey and live out those directions, they can begin to develop a plan for aligning their financial and spiritual life with their beliefs.

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

The capstone project of the program is for each participant to develop a specific ministry action plan for putting into practice all they have experienced.

Many participants implement their plans through their work, ministry, church, or local community.

Readings

Participants will read 2-3 books during each unit. 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

During five of the months Michael Blue will present a thematic approach to what the Bible says about money and possessions. These videos will help to build a biblical theology that will run throughout the 9:23 Fellowship experience.

Other 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 unit 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

Individual cohorts will meet every month for mutual engagement and growth, either online or in person. The conclusion of the 9:23 Fellowship is a live event, held in May, and is a commissioning and time of sharing and encouragement.

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

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|----------------------|---|
| 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 unit as cohorts meet monthly, concluding with a live, in-person commissioning event

Unit One Schedule

Biblical Theology of Money and Possessions

August

- Attend meet and greet cohort members
- Review expectations for 9:23 Fellowship
- Focus on vision of 9:23 Fellowship and prayer

September

- Discuss *Neither Poverty nor Riches* by Craig Blomberg
- Complete the Proverbs by Topic exercise
- Watch *Biblical Themes on Money: Section 1* by Michael Blue

October

- Discuss *Money, Possessions, and Eternity* by Randy Alcorn (Chapters 1, 4, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, and Conclusion)
- Complete the Luke by Topic exercise
- Watch *Biblical Themes on Money: Section 2* by Michael Blue

Unit Two Schedule

Exploring Generosity and Whole Life Surrender

November

- Discuss *CT Studd: Cricketer & Pioneer* by Norman Grubb
- Study 1 John
- Watch *Biblical Themes on Money: Section 3* by Michael Blue
- Watch sermon by Paul Washer: Paul Washer - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uuabITeO4I8>

December

- Discuss *Joy Giving* by Cameron Doolittle
- Study 2 Corinthians 7-9
- Complete a life/possessions inventory
- Attend a Journey of Generosity

Unit Three Schedule

Modeling Biblical Personal Finance

January

- Read *Free to Follow* by Michael Blue
- Study James
- Watch *Biblical Themes on Money: Section 4* by Michael Blue
- Prepare personal convictions on lifestyle, giving, saving, and debt

February

- Read *The Choice: The Christ-centered pursuit of kingdom outcomes* by Gary Hoag, Scott Rodin, and Wesley Willmer
- Study Matthew 5-7
- Watch *Biblical Themes on Money: Section 5* by Michael Blue
- Complete the *Financial Hope* Bible study

Unit Four Schedule

Forming a Personal and Cultural Engagement Plan

March

- Read *With* by Skye Jethani
- Practice lectio divina (Philippians)
- 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

April

- Read *Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth* by Richard Foster
- Practice fasting and solitude
- Watch Helping Without Hurting
 - 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>

May

- Take the IMAGE assessment
- Read *Vocation: Discerning Your Calling* by Timothy Keller
- Read *Listening to Life* by Parker Palmer

- Practice mercy ministries
- Attend in person Commissioning event in Indianapolis, IN

Program Cost

The cost of the program is \$800. The expenses to attend the in-person Commissioning and the cost of books are additional.