



Financial Literacy Resources for Graduate Theological Schools

Compiled by [Jo Ann Deasy](#) | *The Association of Theological Schools* | September 2022

The resources and tools below were all recommended by schools that participated in Lilly Endowment Inc.'s [Economic Challenges Facing Future Ministers Initiative](#).

FINANCIAL LITERACY EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

[CashCourse | Your Real-Life Money Guide](#)

Used by many of our embedded seminaries, CashCourse provides online financial education courses, customizable financial tools, articles and resources, and personal dashboards for students to track their progress. Students can sign up for free. CashCourse recently affiliated with the Higher Education Financial Wellness Association, and school membership is required to access the materials. Cost for membership is \$375/year for an FTE of up to 5,000 students.

[Clergy Personal Finance Resources](#)

Based out of the Lewis Center for Church Leadership at Wesley Theological Seminary, this website focuses on videos, articles, tools, worksheets, and other resources to help pastors better understand and manage their personal finances.

[Compass-finances God's way](#)

Compass-*finances God's way* is a global evangelical organization committed to teaching financial discipleship and training people to disciple others in their financial journeys. Its website provides many resources including:

- A library of videos and articles, some of which are available for free and others that can be accessed by joining the organization
- Many free online studies for use by individuals or small groups that include videos, worksheets, memory verses, and additional resources
- Many financial calculators
- Small group curriculum available for purchase

[Crown Financial Ministries](#)

An Evangelical organization dedicated to spreading the principles and practices of God's economy throughout the world. Crown focuses on both money and vocational discernment as part of its mission.

The website includes:

- Many financial calculators ranging from auto loans to simple interest calculators
- Christian Credit Counselors to help individuals overcome credit card debt
- Several Bible-based online courses focused on financial literacy (\$25-30/each)
- Links to courses available for free through the YouVersion app

Dfree Global Foundation—Take control of your money

The Dfree Global Foundation is a faith-based nonprofit organization that focuses on leading the African American community to financial freedom through content, curriculum, training, tools, and access to professionals. The organization has worked with several ATS schools as part of the Economic Challenges Facing Future Ministers Initiative.

It offers the following:

- Dfree Online Academy that offers in-person (on your campus) or online courses
- “12 Steps to Financial Freedom”—a curriculum for use in the church or community

In 2021, Dfree also offered a three-part live seminary focused on 12 steps to financial freedom geared specifically toward pastors and clergy.

Get FreedUp

Freed Up is a biblically-based approach for managing your finances. It offers an app and workbook for individuals or for use with your church (or organization). The app/workbook for individuals costs \$99, but there is also church pricing. Freed Up is a partnership of Crossroads Spiritual Outfitters and Good Sense.

Good and Faithful—Seedbed Resources

Gary Hoag is an Evangelical New Testament scholar who developed a number of courses and resources in partnership with several ATS schools as part of the Economic Challenges Facing Future Ministers Initiative.

- *Good and Faithful: Ten Stewardship Lessons for Everyday Living* (Seedbed, 2017) includes a workbook (\$16.95 each/50% for 25 or more) and DVD (\$29.95 each) that can be purchased online. The videos themselves are also available for free on the website (see the link above).

See also Hoag’s syllabi for “Nurturing a Ministry Culture of Christian Generosity” and “Faith and Finances” available through the [Wabash Center](#).

Faithonomics [+]

Faithonomics is a social venture committed to challenging poverty among faith leaders and their communities through holistic financial formation. On October 3, 2022, it will launch a new free digital community where Christian faith leaders can have honest and formative conversations about faith, money, and vocation. The community will include a topic library, conversation spaces (including one for graduate theological students), courses, workshops, special events, and a chance to network with peers. Faithonomics was started by Rayce Lamb, director of admissions and enrollment management at Wake Forest University School of Divinity, and a participant of the Do Good X Startup Accelerator.

Inceptia

Inceptia is a division of the National Student Loan Program that works with schools to provide financial aid management, financial education, and repayment wellness. Inceptia offers a series of toolkits, free webinars, and other resources geared towards students and financial aid personnel. It also offers [Financial Avenue](#), a program with ten stand-alone courses that covers everything from the psychology of money to debt and repayment loan guidance. Courses integrate with Canvas. They are offered in both Spanish and English.

Money Talks: A Biblical Take on Earning, Saving, Spending, and Giving

The book *Money Talks* was published by recently published by Callie Picardo, vice president for development at United Theological Seminary and financial advisor, and Rosario Picardo, director of United's Houses of Study and church planter. They are currently offering a four-week online course based on their book at United.

College & University Offerings—Ron Blue Institute

The Ron Blue Institute partners with colleges (mostly undergraduate) to provide biblically based teaching on finances. Schools it serves include several universities with embedded seminaries. Resources include peer coaching, course materials, online courses that can be branded for your institution, and the following free resources:

- Materials and syllabi for a three-hour Mastering Personal Finances course
- Materials and syllabi for a three-hour Biblical Financial Planning course
- A one-credit online Personal Finances and Faith course

Saving Grace: A Guide to Financial Well-Being | Compass Initiative

A six-session program based on Wesleyan values that provides participants the text and tools needed to address the topics of saving, earning, and giving. Includes a DVD of the video session, leader's guide, participant workbook, and a workbook for clergy focused on financial issues unique to pastors.

Share Save Spend | The choices we make with our money can change the world

Nathan Dungan, founder and president of Share Save Spend, is the son of a Lutheran pastor and has worked with several ATS schools. The goal of the organization is to help individuals and families develop healthy money habits that honor their values and enhance their financial wellbeing.

The organization offers consulting, speaking services, and Money Sanity U—a subscription-based interactive virtual-learning platform designed to be co-branded with schools or other organizations.

Society for Financial Education & Professional Development, Inc.

The organization's mission is to enhance financial and economic literacy and to promote professional development of individuals and communities. Much of its work focuses on partnerships with colleges and universities, particularly Historically Black Colleges, and it is well networked with government organizations, credit card companies, and other organizations that provide financial literacy training. The organization has a large annual conference that has been attended by several ATS financial aid personnel. The website includes several financial tools related to investing. In addition, it offers information on how to develop and present customized financial literacy and professional development training for individuals and organizations.

Soul of Money Institute

Several ATS schools have used *The Soul of Money* by Lynne Twist (W.W. Norton & Company, 2017) to explore how attitudes toward money shape our lives and values. The institute offers workshops and online courses (most are about \$300/person) and at varying price points.

The following free options are available:

- "The Transformative Power of Sufficiency & Gratefulness," a virtual course with six brief sessions
- "Three Steps to Money Forgiveness," a mini-masterclass

FINANCIAL LITERACY TOOLS AND APPS

Digit | Effortless budgeting, saving, and investing: This app is a smart bank account that constantly guides your money in the right direction.

Klontz Money Scripts Test: A short, free, online assessment tool that explores four scripts (avoidance, focus, status, and vigilance) that shape our approach to money. Brad Klontz's site offers several free videos and other resources focused on financial psychology.

Budget Tracker & Planner | Free Online Money Management | Mint: A free app that allows you to budget, track bills, centralize your accounts, and track investments. The webpage also offers several tools and calculators.

Life Kit | Money | NPR: A series of videos and articles from National Public Radio (NPR) focused on current issues related to personal finances.

Gain Total Control of Your Money with YNAB—You Need A Budget: A budgeting app that uses a simple four-rule method to help you organize your finances, demolish your debt, save, and reach your financial goals.