

discover

moneywise

A three part course to help you take control
and stay in control of your money



Talking money is never easy. It has also never been so important. The credit crunch and increases in basic household costs mean we must be more careful managers of money.

But managing well does not come easily. Many of us lack the skills of budgeting, planning and managing which older generations learned through necessity and our money anxiety is made worse by the turmoil in the banking world. Many people struggle to stay on top of the financial basics of managing money. This course offers straightforward, practical support to all who want to take control of money and find financial freedom. The aims of the course are as follows:

- To challenge us to begin thinking about money and how we manage it
- To encourage discussion and break the taboo of silence around money
- To provide some practical ideas and resources for taking control of money
- To encourage action to improve finances – and to have some fun!

the structure of the course

Modelled on the Alpha Course, Moneywise currently consists of three core modules, each lasting 90 minutes.

session 1 taking control – we look at the importance of money management and good budgeting and take some first steps to prepare our own realistic household or personal budget

session 2 living in control – we look at creating, reviewing and balancing our first budget, ways of increasing income and reducing expenditure; the advantages and disadvantages of borrowing money

session 3 staying in control – we look at our simple, practical MoneyBox system for making our budget work with our day to day spending; some closing tips for getting out of the red and staying in the black.

Speaker-led presentations are interwoven with practical, hands-on exercises and small group discussions. Each module has “homework” for participants to make practical application to their personal finances.

Fictional case studies are used throughout and no-one is expected to reveal or discuss their personal financial details. The case studies stimulate small group discussions which we believe are the key to the success of each session. The course aims to provide a non-threatening setting for people to start to talk about money and to share experiences and ideas with each other.

church or community?

Because Moneywise has no overt biblical content or comment in the material it is suitable for use in the community. However, you may find it helpful to ‘test run’ it with church members first and here are some ideas about how to raise awareness before running the course:

- Think about using a Sunday service to preach on money from a biblical perspective.
- Consider hosting the Stewardship workshop *Managing Money God’s Way* as a warm up module to lay a biblical foundation for the practical approach in Moneywise.

- Encourage church leaders to focus cell or small group activities on the course so demonstrating both the importance of the subject and their support.

promoting the course

Take time and thought to promote the course thoroughly. Money is a sensitive issue; many feel it be a deeply personal matter while for others money anxieties make it a taboo subject.

- Personal invitation to individuals is always the best way to invite people to attend a group. Invite small group leaders in the church to attend the course as a cell or home group.
- Church members attending the course should be encouraged to invite friends and neighbours, confident that the course content will be accessible and appropriate to those who do not have or practice a faith.
- Advertise the course with posters and leaflets. Be as creative as you can: libraries, dentist and GP surgeries, community notice boards, a local credit union and Citizens Advice.
- With permission, approach local groups: parent and toddler groups, community centres, parent-school partnerships and leave a simple leaflet advertising the course.
- The local free paper will often be willing to carry a short story on money or debt which can be used to advertise the course.

presenting the course

Moneywise has been developed to be facilitated by a local church member using a full range of materials prepared by Stewardship. Full speaker notes accompany the presentations and guidance is also given on the practical arrangements and preparations that are needed.

Facilitators should have experience of making presentations and some familiarity with budgeting and awareness of issues around credit but *professional expertise is not at all a prerequisite*.

However, the course can sometimes raise issues for individuals around budgeting and it may be advisable to consider in advance if sufficient one-to-one help would be available if needed. It is well worth considering Stewardship's *Personal Budget Coach Training* before running Moneywise. See the Training and events tab on our website at www.stewardship.org.uk/money for more details and training near you.

Internet access is helpful for some of the illustrative video clips but these are not essential to the course if access is not available.

accessing the course

Moneywise is freely available from the Stewardship website. Visit www.stewardship.org.uk/money and type moneywise into the search box to bring up all the materials for leaders and delegates. Leaders are invited to provide us with feedback on completion of the course so we can continue to improve the quality and relevance of the material.

