

Financial Challenges

Our consumer-oriented society lures people into thinking that merely having possessions will bring them happiness. Yet many are drowning in overwhelming debt or just surviving from day to day. Others are financially secure but are seeking real purpose and direction with their financial options. Think of the tremendous impact a new financial focus could have on families, churches, and worldwide needs. Imagine the genuine contentment and peace people could have.



Critical Impact

This is actually a spiritual issue. Jesus addresses the negative pull that money can have on our hearts—choking out life and even causing loss of faith. It shows up in mental and physical stress, family break-ups, loss of homes, and even suicide. All this creates a ripple effect on the health of congregations and synod. The loss of focus and lack of support for significant ministries has a profound effect on the difference that could be made on the lives of others.

Practical Advice

God challenges us to obey his direction and put his promises to the test—to see him open the floodgates of heaven and pour out abundant blessings. *Heart in Focus* gives people at every financial level a fresh perspective on money—a mindset that places God first. Practical steps are followed to navigate the maze of choices in giving, saving, investing, insurance, housing, transportation, and daily living decisions.

“Helping God’s people aim their treasures toward their Christ-centered mission.”

Affordable Program

Heart in Focus is a practical tool for congregations. It instructs individuals and couples in foundational aspects of finances and challenges them in concrete ways to better handle their daily and long-term finances to reach their life goals. The participant workbook is very affordable, as are the training materials for the congregation.

Available Products

- **Participant Workbook** – quantity discounts are available.
- **Facilitator Kit** – includes detailed instructions and notes, a PowerPoint presentation, video vignettes, and ways to use and promote.

Order From



Northwestern Publishing House

Visit www.nph.net and type *Heart in Focus* in the Search category or call 800-662-6022 (Milwaukee area 414-475-6600).

Contact Information:

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Heart in FOCUS



VIEWING MONEY MATTERS
THROUGH SPIRITUAL EYES

*“For where your treasure is,
there your heart will be also.”*
Matthew 6:21

What is Heart in Focus?

This six session Christian financial course can have a strong impact on the health of your congregation. It provides a unique opportunity for individuals to grow in their relationship with God and guides them through wise financial choices. The sessions address practical financial topics such as:

- recognizing income and blessings
- generous giving
- wise saving and investing
- careful spending
- eliminating debt
- new approaches to daily choices
- making an impact on others now
- leaving a legacy in the future

Great for members, or as a community
assistance outreach opportunity!

Why Heart in Focus?

Active Learning

Heart in Focus sessions are not designed to be long, complicated lectures. Participants have plenty of opportunities to share personal insights and experiences during small group discussions. The personal struggles, laughs, encouragements, and great individual financial tips make the sessions uniquely suited to each group. Every participant will leave with a new commitment and support system for their finances.



Choosing an Instructor

This course is designed to be locally led. The following qualifications will help you identify a leader for your *Heart in Focus* course:

- ♦ A strong Christian faith that joyfully lives in Christ.
- ♦ A demonstrated knowledge and practice of the basics of wise financial management.
- ♦ The ability to lead the course in an engaging, enjoyable, and meaningful way.
- ♦ A caring heart that is responsive toward people and their personal situation.
- ♦ Not promoting any financial product or service from which the leader profits.

Christ-centered

Heart in Focus is for all people no matter what their financial status—not just for those swamped in debt. It has a decidedly Lutheran approach, intentionally going beyond the “financial principles” of Scripture to unfold the different aspects of God’s loving relationship with us in Christ. The Law and Gospel applications lead participants to recognize their sinful nature and see the forgiveness and power of Christ. Finally, *Heart in Focus* equips participants to carry out their unique calling in daily life.



The Heart . . .

The *Heart in Focus* logo represents that inner “pull of the heart” and how it influences our finances. There is a daily struggle between the Old Self and New Self that is affected by the materialism of our world. Participants will look into the harmful choices that get us off track and discover the power to move in the right direction.



. . . In Focus

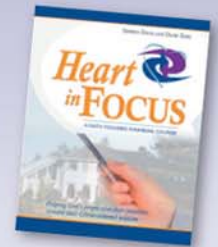
The sessions are built on these spiritual themes:

- F**ix Your Eyes on Lasting Treasure (Heaven)
- O**vercome Worry (the Father's Care)
- C**onquer the Obstacles (Christ's Perseverance)
- U**se His Gifts Wisely (God as Owner)
- S**hift Your Priorities (Holy Spirit work-calling)

Course Length

The six sessions in the *Heart in Focus* workbook can be taught in larger congregational settings or small groups. Some scheduling options are (in order of preference):

- ♦ Once a week for six weeks with 90-minute sessions
- ♦ Once a week for eight weeks with 60-minute sessions (splitting two workbook sessions)
- ♦ Four Saturday mornings
- ♦ Two Sunday afternoons
- ♦ A concentrated one and one-half day session (this option does not provide as much application time)



Additional Resources

- ♦ **Promotional resource** – includes posters, flyers, mailers, and inserts.
- ♦ **Training Workshop** – one-and two-day workshops are available to train local facilitators for leading *Heart in Focus*.
- ♦ **Web site** – provides forms, schedules, additional links, and other resources at www.wels.net/jump/faithfinance.

Contact WELS Adult Discipleship for information on the full *Faith Focused Finances* suite of services.

www.wels.net/jump/faithfinance