

WSBM exists to equip God's people – head, heart, and hands – through the Word of God, helping them know Jesus Christ personally and carry on His ministry.

COURSE: WSBM 160 Live Your Calling: Meaning in Life and Work

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Richard (Rick) J. Goossen (rick@elonnetwork.org)

DATE: Wednesdays | January 22 – March 19, 2025 | 7-8:30pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION

What are your gifts? Your passion? Where do you find meaning? What is your calling?

A clear understanding of our calling is core for the Christian, no matter one's stage of life. The one starting a career or in the midst of education can lay a foundation for future plans. The one looking to reset can find direction mid-career. Those in their retirement stage can reboot their focus in life in order to finish well.

Discovering and developing meaning in our lives allows us to be Biblical, practical, and relevant disciples. These three emphases help us face the opposing foci of mainstream culture, ensuring we appropriately connect meaning and identity in our work environment.

WSBM 160 Live Your Calling is one of the core courses at WSBM.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to:

- Make sense of their life and work within the context of a biblical framework
- Discover how their life experiences contribute to their unique and special purpose
- Assert biblical truth in everyday living, in light of opposing culture and secular pursuits
- Practically apply their calling in clear, tangible ways, no matter their work environment
- Develop a healthy relationship between their identity and their workplace
- Create their own "Personal Calling Action Plan" with clear action steps to discern and apply their calling in life and work

RECOMMENDED READING

There is no need to buy any materials for this course. There are three free resources:

- Goossen, Richard and R. Paul Stevens. *Entrepreneurial Leadership: Finding Your Calling, Making a Difference*. (Downers Grove, IL: InverVarsity, 2013.). I will post extracts.
- Goossen, Richard. *What's My Point? Solving Your Life Points Puzzle* (forthcoming in Jan 2025). I will post extracts.
- Various Blog Posts from www.ELONetwork.org which are available, of course, at no charge (see final page).

COURSE PROGRAM

Date	Topic	Associated Readings	Assignments
Jan 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Introduction to the CourseThe Search for Meaning	Blogs: 11, 12, 23	
Jan 29	<i>No class</i>		
Feb 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Meaning in Life & Work	En. Leadership pp. 43-60 Blogs: 1, 17, 18, 19	I
Feb 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Finding Your Calling	En. Leadership pp. 109-126 Blogs: 7, 8, 9, 10	II
Feb 19	<i>No class</i>		
Feb 26	Vocational Pyramid	En. Leadership pp.118-126 Blogs: 20	III
Mar 5	<i>No class</i>		
Mar 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Principles and Practice of Calling	En. Leadership pp. 127-162 Blogs: 2	IV
Mar 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none">What is My Point?Course Summary	En. Leadership pp. 163-180 Extracts: <i>What's My Point?</i> Blogs: 1, 11, 16	V & VI
Mar 26			Synthesis

STUDENT ASSIGNMENTS

The value of this course is in your careful self-reflection. Apply the knowledge to your life for greatest "success". Submit assignments through Moodle.

1. Attendance (10%)

Attend and participate in each class.

2. Weekly Assignments I-VI (60%)

Complete a self-reflection after each class discussing the content from the class. Each report must be 250-500 words.

Due: See program, above

3. Final Synthesis (30%)

Reflect on all assignments to date and complete a Personal Calling Action Plan, which blends all content together with a focus on the student's individual calling. The document must be 500-1000 words. Guiding questions will be provided.

Due: March 26, 2025

ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Richard (Rick) J. Goossen serves as Chairman of the ELO Group, which provides resources for meaning-driven entrepreneurial leaders. He has been a member at Willingdon Church since 1993, and has served with WSBM, the Welcome Centre, ushering, and home groups.

Dr. Goossen has previously served on the boards of the Canadian Conference of MB Churches, Columbia Bible College, and the Mennonite Housing Society.

BLOG POSTS FROM www.ELONetwork.org

These blogs are referenced in the recommended readings for further study. You can use the search feature on the ELO website for more blogs covering various aspects of the course material.

- [Blog 1 - Bill Pollard: Former CEO, Service Master: Living Your Calling](#) May 11, 2015
- [Blog 2 - Bobby Gruenewald's Lessons Learned from the Launch of the YouVersion Bible App](#) January 22, 2016
- [Blog 3 - Calling: Past, Present & Future?](#) August 30, 2015
- [Blog 4 - Calling: Play To Your Strengths](#) June 6, 2015
- [Blog 5 - Calling: Ready, Willing, But Not Able?](#) June 15, 2015
- [Blog 6 - Calling: The Old and the New](#) August 16, 2015
- [Blog 7 - Calling: We Are Not In Control](#) July 6, 2015
- [Blog 8 - Charles Spurgeon: Four Steps To Finding Your Calling](#) July 13, 2015
- [Blog 9 - Christian Entrepreneurs & Confusion Over Calling](#) December 27, 2013
- [Blog 10 - Fifty Reasons Why You Are Called](#) September 13, 2015
- [Blog 11 – A Primer for Jordan B. Peterson's Beyond Order & 12 More Rules for Life: 1 – 6](#) March 30, 2021
- [Blog 12 – A Primer for Jordan B. Peterson's Beyond Order & 12 More Rules for Life: 8 – 12](#) April 1, 2021
- [Blog 13 - Lord Stephen K. Green on Leading & Calling in the Marketplace](#) March 9, 2016
- [Blog 14 - Mark Burnett, TV Producer: Living Your Calling](#) April 26, 2015
- [Blog 15 - Mart Green, Hobby Lobby Stores: Living Your Calling](#) May 2, 2015
- [Blog 16 - Not Called, But Gifted?](#) August 25, 2015
- [Blog 17 - Peter Irvine: Business as Mission](#) July 17, 2014
- [Blog 18 - Philip Ng, CEO, Far East Organization: A Billionaire Family's Christian Enterprise \(Part I\)](#) October 1, 2017
- [Blog 19 - Richard Magnussen: Called to the Furniture Business!](#) June 28, 2014
- [Blog 20 - The Call of Christian Marketplace Leaders & The Old Bakery Tearoom](#) May 20, 2021.
- [Blog 21 - Thank God for Closed Doors](#) August 4, 2015
- [Blog 22 - The Call of Christian Entrepreneurs from Oxford](#) August 29, 2018.
- [Blog 23 - The Call of William Milne 195 Years Later: From Aberdeenshire to Malacca](#) September 7, 2017
- [Blog 24 - What is Your Blind Spot?](#) September 23, 2015
- [Blog 25 - You Are Called: Being On Purpose in Life & Work](#) April 8, 2015
- [Blog 26 - Your Calling: The World's Need?](#) July 20, 2015