

## Willingdon School of the Bible

*Equipping the people of God – head, heart and hands – through the Word of God, helping them know Jesus Christ personally and carry on his ministry.*

### **Course: WSB 523 “What’s Your Point? Making Sense of Life & Work”**

**Course Description:** Are you clear about your calling? Do you know your purpose? Does your work fit into your identity? Or, does your identity fit into your work? Have you reflected deeply about how your past life experiences have shaped you for how God wishes to have you fulfill your ongoing calling?

The course is intended to equip students to achieve greater biblically-based clarity regarding purpose in both life and work. The framework of the class is based on seven life points, which will be covered individually in each class.

Each class focuses on one of seven life points and provides a series of key questions that are applicable to each individual: Starting Point, Reference Point, Turning Points, High Points, Low Points, Exclamation Points and End Point.

By going through the course, each student will be creating a “Life Points Frame” to understand the points of their life. I use the term “frame” as it conveys that the seven points provide a way of having students look at and understand their own lives. The course will take students through a process to lead them to answer for themselves, “what’s your point?”

The course is a guide to directed self-reflection to provide students with a new way of understanding their life (how God has worked in their life thus far) and how to understand their purpose moving forward (how God will continue to work in their lives in the future as they pursue their calling). This course will lead students through a journey of discovering the meaning in their life story through a simple framework, regardless of their form of employment, age or life situation.

**Instructor:** Rick Goossen ([Rick@ELONetwork.org](mailto:Rick@ELONetwork.org))

**Thursdays** | April 15 – June 3 (8 sessions) | 7:00 – 8:30 pm

### **Course Objectives:**

1. To help individuals make sense of their life and work within the context of a biblical framework and to discover how their life experiences contribute to their unique and special purpose with three emphases.

2. First, biblical truths must be asserted in the context of our mainstream culture's opposing focus on meaning tied to material possessions and secular pursuit of happiness.
3. Second, Christians need a clearer way to understand calling and how it applies practically to their lives.
4. Third, the course will connect meaning to the work environment. The workplace is where the vast majority of people—including many Christians—find their identity and meaning.
5. These three emphases make the course biblical, practical and relevant and will be delivered in an easy to understand manner, with a memorable seven point organizing framework.

### **Required Reading**

- Richard J. Goossen & R. Paul Stevens, *Entrepreneurial Leadership: Finding Your Calling, Making A Difference* (Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press, 2013) [available via Amazon].
- Various materials to be made available by instructor throughout the course.

### **Student Projects & Grading**

The value of the course will come when students engage in careful self-reflection and an understanding of the “points” of their life experiences to date. This course will be a “success” when people apply the framework to their own lives.

#### Attendance (10%)

Attendance at each of the classes and, ideally, some level of participation, as possible.

#### Seven Weekly Assignments (70%)

Students will complete a self-reflection on each of the seven points after each class in which it was discussed and prior to the following class.

Each report should be 250-750 words.

*Due:* Upload to the class site on a weekly basis.

#### Final Synthesis (20%)

Students will reflect on all seven assignments to date and write an overview which blends all seven points together with a focus on What's Your Point? This final assignment will allow time for reflection on the entire process.

The document should be 500 - 1,500 words.

*Due:* Upload to the class site within two weeks of the last day of class.