

Financial Stewardship

Leaders



Zsolt Szalai has spent most of his professional career in banking and private equity companies in Hungary. In 2006, he was called to serve as an elder in the Reformed Church of Szentendre, and since January 2018, Zsolt also serves as the head of the Board of Elders. Since 2014, he is leading Compass finances God's way ministry in Hungary and since 2017 he is head of the leadership workshop of Hungarian Evangelical Forum. Zsolt also serves as the chairman of Compass Europe, a financial discipleship movement. Zsolt is married, has two adult children and lives in Szentendre, Hungary.



Pavel Pavlov is the CEO of Compass Europe, a financial discipleship movement. He previously worked with the Forum of Christian Leaders (FOCL), organizing and developing year-round training and mentoring initiatives for Christian leaders across Europe. Before that, he served as an administrator for a church actively engaged in community outreach and organized several National Forum Conferences. Pavel also gained managerial experience working for international corporations. He serves on the board of trustees for European Christian Mission International (ECMI) and is the chair of its finance and audit committee. His passion lies in life and executive coaching. Pavel is married, has three children, and lives in Stara Zagora, Bulgaria.

Overview

This 10-week course trains evangelical leaders across Europe to lead Financial Discipleship initiatives. Participants will gain a deeper understanding of God's perspective on money and possessions, equipping them to launch or strengthen holistic stewardship ministries. Through Biblical and practical training, leaders will learn to disciple others, fostering healthy financial habits and Christ-centered priorities. The course prepares participants for various roles—mentoring individuals, consulting churches, leading small groups, teaching at events, and influencing professional and business circles. The ultimate aim is to spark a multiplying movement of financial discipleship within churches and communities for God's kingdom purposes.

Topics Covered

1. What is Financial Discipleship?

The session introduces participants to the curriculum, helping them connect personally and understand the program's purpose. It establishes a shared biblical foundation for stewardship through Scripture, reflection, and discussion. Finally, it clarifies the meaning and model of biblical discipleship and highlights the role of financial discipleship in the everyday material and spiritual life of Christians.

2. True North! Back to the God Standard

The gold standard once anchored the value of money to a stable reference point, and in the same way Jesus calls believers to anchor every area of life—including finances—in Him and His Word. Just as a compass points travelers to true north, returning to the "God Standard" provides clear direction for financial decisions. At the core of Compass teaching is the foundational truth that God owns it all.

3. The Competitor

Jesus teaches that we cannot serve both God and mammon, making it essential to understand mammon as a powerful and often subtle rival for our hearts. The biblical perspective reveals that money shapes us—whether we are acquiring, saving, spending, or giving it. As David McConaughy notes, money can become either a blessing or a curse, depending on whether we master it or it masters us.

4. Making the Right Financial Decisions

When our financial lives are aligned with God's "True North" and we recognize the temptations of mammon, we can begin making decisions grounded in Scripture. Integrity—living consistently with what we profess—is essential, because managing money is ultimately a spiritual discipline, not just a technical task. Our financial choices visibly express our faith in Jesus and can powerfully witness to those who do not yet know Him.

5. Becoming Debt Free

Scripture does not forbid borrowing, but it warns that debt places a person in a position of servitude, which can conflict with our calling to live as those redeemed by Christ. While debt itself is morally neutral, excessive debt often creates pressure and limitations that hinder obedience to God's purposes. In many cases, its stress contributes to damaged lives and relationships, even within the Christian community.

6. How Much is Enough?

Contentment is essential to financial discipleship, yet we live in a culture that constantly pushes us to spend on what we do not truly need. Paul's words in Philippians 4:11–13 remind us that contentment is learned, not innate, and is possible in every circumstance. As we seek the Lord's guidance, He teaches us to live with enough to fulfill His purposes.

7. Creating Your Financial Future

Christians often struggle with whether to save and plan or simply depend on God's daily provision, yet Scripture shows that God provides while also giving us the capacity and responsibility to plan. Proverbs 16:9 reminds us that we may prepare our plans, but the Lord directs our steps. Wise financial planning considers the whole of life, seeking balance across our responsibilities so that our choices support the impact God calls us to make.

8. Whole Life Generosity

Jesus modeled and taught a life of generosity rooted in love for God and neighbor. Whole-life generosity recognizes that our time, talents, and resources are given to bless others, and that sacrificial, joyful giving brings glory to God while strengthening those who receive. Embracing this mindset reshapes a believer's outlook, fostering a Spirit-led, service-oriented life.

9. Your Eternal Portfolio

Because God has placed eternity in our hearts, our daily choices—including financial ones—should reflect an eternal perspective. Jesus urges us to invest in heavenly treasures rather than earthly ones, directing our time, talents, and resources toward what lasts forever. Aligning our lives with God's "True North" helps us live and give with eternity in view.

10. Create Your Stewardship Plan

Jesus intentionally modeled how to make disciples and commissioned His followers to do the same, teaching them to apply His instructions in every area of life—including finances. Since financial decisions shape daily living, the church must equip believers with biblical principles for managing money. As part of the Financial Stewardship course, each participant prepares a Final Paper that includes a personal reflection on key lessons learned, an analysis of opportunities to launch financial discipleship in their sphere of influence, and a SMART-based action plan outlining concrete next steps. This ensures that learning leads to intentional, practical multiplication.

The course is run for 10 to 12 people in English, with the goal of working with leaders who go through the course to eventually offer a stewardship course in their own country language.

The ten-week-long training track will involve weekly interactive Zoom sessions. Prior to each session, trainees will need to watch a short training video, read a short article, and answer reflection questions.

Trainees will need to set aside up to three hours a week for this track (90 minutes virtual meeting, 30 minutes watching the training videos, 30 minutes reading, 30 minutes taking reflection notes).

Webinar dates: at 16:00 CET on:

1. March 25, 2026
2. April 22, 2026
3. April 29, 2026
4. May 6, 2026
5. May 13, 2026
6. May 27, 2026
7. June 3, 2026
8. June 10, 2026
9. June 17, 2026

The course is offered free of charge. Each participant is expected to read the book 'Financial Discipleship' by Peter Briscoe, which will be shipped for free.

Apply Now

How to apply:

To apply fill out the registration form, or contact Emanuel Tundrea with questions at initiatives@euroleadership.org.