

5 keys to funding your time at Bible College

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Hello!



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SO...you have a desire to learn more about God's word and deepen your relationship with Jesus. You have dreams and plans to see people disciplined and communities impacted, and now you've decided to look into going to a Bible College! Firstly **WELL DONE**, it's a great desire and one which helps fulfil the great commission: **Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV) Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.**

But how are you going to fund this dream? Over my time as principal at LIFE Church College, I have seen 100's of students face the same question and 100's of students see the provision of God. And so here are my **5 keys to funding your time at Bible College...**



1.

Faith has to be part of your financial journey

You are going to be someone that leads people in faith, so this is your first step. **2 Corinthians 5:7 (NIV) For we live by faith, not by sight.** Sometimes students want all the finance in the bank before they start & this is great if you can make this happen. But for most students this is not possible...so faith looks like saying "I can raise 40% of my costs before I go and I'm believing (in faith...trusting in the provision of God) that he will provide in miraculous ways!" Good statements to help you:

- ◆ **If God's calling this, God will provide**
- ◆ **If I step out and trust in Him, He will provide**
- ◆ **God I'm working as hard as I can now to save; I'm believing that as I work hard you will add to this with miraculous provision**

Having faith in your financial journey requires you to pray. Start to write out prayers around the provision you need & start to join with good friends who will pray for you. When you become intentional about praying to the great provider (Jesus) **He always turns up!**



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2.

Have a plan

Faith without a plan is fuel without a car. You can have all the faith in the world, believe that God is going to turn up, but if you just sit in your bedroom hoping, believing, praying you have the fuel, but no car to put it in, it is useless. Your car is like a plan, some movement or action. Think of the following examples in the Bible:

- ◆ **Feeding of the 5,000 (Luke 9).** It required a plan: 5 loaves and 2 fish, and Jesus made the disciples sit the people down in groups of 50. **With this plan/movement, a miracle then happened.**
- ◆ **Elisha and the jar of oil (2 Kings 4).** It required a plan: **he made the widow go and collect as many jars as possible. Once she had, the oil was poured into the jars she had collected.**

What's your plan for God to multiply? For God to pour into? Your financial plan needs to be as specific as possible, and written down. For example:

- ◆ **I am going to get a part time job between now and Bible College starting**
- ◆ **I am going to sell some things I own to help raise some funds**
- ◆ **I will do some sponsorship events to raise awareness and finance**

When you have a written down plan, go and show it to someone who is full of faith and wisdom. Ask for their input and ideas and add them to your plan.



3.

Create ways for people to give to your dream

News flash...people want to give to your dream! But they can only give if there is a way for them to give. Here are some ideas:

- ◆ **Set up an online funding page, spread the news via social media that they can give to you.**
- ◆ **Create a 1-2 page leaflet (*make on a simple program like Microsoft Word or PowerPoint*) which you print out and send to relatives, close family friends, church friends who will be moved to support you once they see what you're planning to do.**
- ◆ **Ask people to sponsor you on a monthly basis, £10 a month (or more). Ten people could get you £100 a month whilst at Bible College; this is a huge help and support.**
- ◆ **Apply to national funds and grants - If you do a simple Google search there are often Christian groups that support people going to Bible College.**
- ◆ **Ask your Church leadership if they will consider sponsoring your course fees or living costs.**



4.

Keep friends, family and supporters regularly updated

When people give to you, make it a priority to keep them updated. This is good stewardship and enables them to see what their gift has done. It also enables them to give more finance to you should they feel led to. You could do this in simple ways:

- ◆ **A private Facebook/Instagram group for your supporters which you update weekly with pictures and news.**
- ◆ **A newsletter (*email or printed*) sent to people's homes/inboxes 3-4 times a year. Showing them what God has done and what you've learnt/been involved in.**
- ◆ **Individual texts or emails thanking people and sharing good news of your time at Bible College.**

Students who do this find that they receive more ongoing financial support, but also prayer support which is just as vital.



5.

Steward what you currently have well

Read Matthew 25:14-30 (NIV). This is a parable where Jesus tells and shows what happens to those who steward what they have well and those who don't. You have been given things by God already; how are you stewarding these things?

- ◆ **How are you handling your current finances? Do you budget and take care of your current finances?**
- ◆ **What about your material possessions? Do you look after them?**
- ◆ **Your bedroom, house share kitchen, car etc - Are these well kept, tidy, looked after, cared for?**

My point is this: If you are asking God to provide for you, to give you finance to study at a Bible College, the best signal you can send (in faith) to God is this one: 'What you have currently given me (both financial and material possessions) I look after as best I can. Therefore if you provide for me I will steward it well, just like I steward what I currently have well.'

As we see in Matthew 25:14-30, God will give to those who look after what they currently have.

****Important note on the 5 points: Anything you do which involves your local church (this could be asking people in the church for finance, borrowing equipment etc) you need to discuss with a leader in the church first to see if they are happy for you to do this. You need the support of your leaders and their input when it involves the church they help oversee.**

LIFE Church College is based in Bradford, England and is designed to equip men and women for leadership in every sphere of life and for Christian ministry.

A world class learning environment where students get to study in creative classroom settings and get hands on with delivering local ministry. With over 17 years experience of training, LIFE Church College continues to help students discover their God given purpose. Students come from all over the world and after one or two years of studying go to help strengthen local churches with their new found gifts and talents.

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