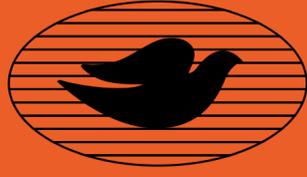


# Southwest Missouri



**STUDENT  
HANDBOOK**

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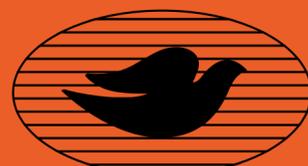
# Welcome to Freedom School of Ministry in 2024.

We are incredibly thrilled to have you join the class in this new year. We're full of faith for what is to come in your decision to commit yourself to being trained.

Jesus offered many invitations. At first, His invitation to all of us is to follow. But to those who respond, there is the invitation to share in more. It's an invitation to follow Jesus in carrying your cross, but also an invitation into friendship with Jesus (John 15:15), into witnessing His wonder (Matt 17:1-9) and into a life of partnering with God in authority (Matt 16:17-19).

We believe changed people change everything and transformed people transform cities. And so, it's our prayer that during your time here, the Holy Spirit will do a deep work in you, that will work it's way out of you - raising you up as a revivalist!

**Neil & Grace Thomas**  
**Head of School**



**2024**

## About FSM

# Our Vision

Freedom School of Ministry (FSM) exists to **RAISE REVIVALISTS**. Our mission is to build people who passionately pursue Jesus and His call on their lives.

We are devoted to readying and training people of all ages to go into the world, bringing transformation through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Our training focuses on both the physical and spiritual requirements of leadership. We want to see people trained in the Word of God, and the demonstration of the Holy Spirit through discovering and putting into practice their spiritual gifts.

FSM offers three levels of training, including **Foundation**, **Formation** and **Leadership**, meaning there's training available to everyone, regardless of where you are in your discipleship.

Students are challenged to uncover their calling as a Kingdom leader by undertaking training in a range of environments including Classroom, Practical Streams and Mentor Based Training.

# Our Values

If we are to fulfil all of God's purposes for our lives, it's imperative we first understand both who we are becoming and who we are not becoming.

As students of FSM and ultimately, of Christ, we are commissioning you to adopt the following Kingdom Values as the reference point for the different people God is calling us to be.

Each Value is accompanied by a statement of commitment we call our Creeds and some practical outworkings of the Value specific to FSM, known as our Student Rythms.

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## **We are Worshipers**

### **Creed**

I will be, before I do

### **Rythms**

Meet with God daily  
Make morning devotionals a priority  
Give yourself to the Sunday gathering  
Pursue purity

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## **We are Family**

### **Creed**

I will love and honour

### **Rythms**

Prioritise your heavenly household  
Contend for community  
Honour the time of your peers and leaders  
Listen well  
Communicate clearly and kindly  
Hold leadership in high regard  
Fight for unity

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## **We are Servants**

**Creed** I will be humble in heart

**Rythms** Serve faithfully in your Stream  
Stay teachable  
Remain ready to serve  
Offer yourself  
Do everything with delight

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## **We are Generous**

**Creed** I will always give my best

**Rythms** Honour God first with your income  
Learn to manage your money  
Prioritise school payments  
Arrive early  
Be prepared to stay late  
Choose contribution over consumerism

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## **We are On Mission**

**Creed** I will be an ambassador

**Rythms** Represent Jesus well  
Share Jesus boldly  
Participate in school and church coordinated evangelism

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## **We are Disciples**

**Creed** I will be discipled, to make disciples

**Rythms** Commit to class  
Practice the way of Jesus  
Choose appetite over apathy  
Spur each other on  
Learn from your leaders  
Lean into loving correction  
Appreciate accountability  
Lead someone else  
Honour the ask in every task

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## **We are Spirit-led**

**Creed** I will partner with the Spirit through prayer

**Rythms** Proceed after prayer  
Pray in the spirit  
Pray with God's people  
Grow in the gifts  
Leave room for risk  
Embrace change

# Foundation

Four eight-week courses, running across each of the FSM school terms focused on equipping you with the necessary foundational truths for discipleship.

## **What does it cost?**

\$100 per course (\$400 annually)  
Includes course curriculum only

# Formation

Mature into the person God has called you to be, by discovering the gifts of the Holy Spirit on your life and by learning to live in the discipline of the Holy Spirit as you re-centre your life around Jesus and His kingdom.

## **What does it cost?**

\$1000 annually with 50% up-front  
Includes orientation, curriculum, retreat, graduation dinner and tea & coffee

# Leadership

Gritty preparation for the rigors of Kingdom leadership. Learn to partner with the Holy Spirit in authority to see the heart of God released through you. Understand God's desire for the Church through the five-fold governance and graces.

## **What does it cost?**

\$1000 annually with 50% up-front  
Includes orientation, curriculum, retreat, graduation dinner and tea & coffee

**ACADEMICS**

## Expectations



# What to expect from the FSM leadership team

We will do our utmost to treat you like the disciple and leader you are training to become. Here is what you can expect from our trainers and leaders during your time in training at FSM, depending on the level of training being undertaken:

### **Foundation Students**

- Prayer support
- Teaching & encouragement

### **Formation & Leadership Students**

- Pastoral care
- Prayer support
- Teaching & encouragement
- Leadership development
- Critical conversations to help you grow
- Additional spiritual leadership & guidance from school leaders & trainers

# Expectations of FSM Students

How you steward this opportunity as a student at FSM, will determine how fruitful it will be both now and in years to come.

We expect that you will both enjoy and honour your time as a student, feeling free to take the risk of becoming all who God has called you to be, while also doing the hard work of cooperating with the confronting nature of being deeply transformed by the Holy Spirit.

Believe it or not, He will often use people as His agents of change. In the context of your training, this will be your trainers and leaders, many of which volunteer themselves. Our expectation is you would also honour their time and spiritual oversight over your life during this season of training.

## Expectations for graduation

The following requirements must be met in order for students to successfully graduate at Freedom School of Ministry:

- A minimum class attendance of 80%
- Attendance at Retreat for students undertaking Formation or Leadership training
- Completion of Orientation prior to commencement of each level of training
- 100% completion of hours in assigned Practical Stream

# **Church Attendance**

As an FSM student, we are looking at who you are becoming when we think about how we want you to be treated. This means we treat you like a leader or staff member. Thus, it's expected that all students prioritise and attend Sunday services.

If for any reason you will be unable to attend a Sunday service, please call or text your School and Stream oversight at the earliest stage you become aware (preferably with 48 hours notice).

# **Attire**

Dress with distinction from the dying world to whom we are representing Jesus. Modesty and cleanliness are the plumb lines you can use when it comes to attire, with "smart-casual" being a good guideline if you're unsure. We want to present ourselves as the prepared people we are, avoiding pyjamas, track suits, ugg boots etc.

# **Integrity**

Paul tells us that we are like living letters who are being observed by all people. Even more compelling is the truth that God is the first witness to both our hidden and public life. We've been called to live holy lives before God and others (1 Pet 1:16). In all things, seen and unseen, we must determine whether we are rightly representing Jesus and His gospel.

This includes giving careful consideration to your social media presence, and how this honours God and others.

# Responsibility

Remain aware of how any decisions or changes to how you serve, will impact the teams and people involved. Always communicate quickly and clearly with your Stream and School oversights, and own the responsibility of seeking out a replacement for your role, if you cannot fulfil your commitment.

We're called to be faithful with every responsibility we have been entrusted with, so hold every opportunity in high esteem. Some simple ways you can do this when serving is to arrive early, take ownership and serve wholeheartedly rather than reluctantly.

# Facilities

You'll notice there is one recurring theme in Jesus' teaching about Kingdom leadership - stewardship. We thoroughly believe in this Kingdom principle, that we are managing what we already have on behalf of God and that there are better things prepared for those who steward well.

Thus, all students are responsible for the care and upkeep of the space while being used for training. Cleaning and tear-down will be rostered between all students with rosters uploaded to the **Student Hub** facilitated by Google Classroom.

## General Information

### SCHOOL TIMES

Currently FSM is running weekly on Tuesday evening from 6.30pm - 9.30pm. Our annual training schedule follows that of the standard Victorian schooling terms and semesters.

A detailed timetable is available on the **Student Hub** via Google Classroom.

### ASSIGNMENTS

Students undertaking Formation and Leadership training will be given the opportunity to apply what they have learned through written assessments. The competence level required for all assessments have been carefully weighed and considered for each level of training. Assessments will have a deadline of at least 14 days from the date of distribution. A penalty of -5% per day will apply for late submissions. A grading of less than 50% will result in failure of the assessment.

### DEVOTIONALS

All students will have the opportunity to share a short three-minute devotional at the beginning of each evening of training, as part of maintaining a focus of being with Jesus before training for Him. Devotional rosters can be found on the **Student Hub** on Google Classroom.

### SAFE MINISTRY

Upon registration, FSM students are required to undergo Safe Church training which will include the completion of a Working with Children Check. This will be required in order for you to be deployed into areas of service such as Kids Ministry and Youth.

# **Practical Streams**

Students undertaking Formation or Leadership training will be required to serve three hours per week within their assigned practical stream. Streams include a number of different areas of service across Sunday services. As those training in Kingdom leadership, we encourage you to serve at the highest capacity you can rather than limit yourself to what is required.

Student practicum is an included component of assessment contributing towards end of year results. Thus, students will be required to log their hours of service and submit with their school oversight each week.

# **Retreat**

Retreats are currently held twice across the schooling year and offer the opportunity for Students to be poured into by training and leadership teams, to spend time in worship together and receive impartation.

Retreat fees for students undertaking Formation or Leadership training are covered in annual schooling fees. Fees will be disclosed in advance for Foundation students who are also invited to attend.

# Missions

Students will also be given the opportunity to travel abroad to witness and participate in the ongoing mission work of Freedom Ministries International.

In 2024, students will have the chance to visit and train in mission fields across the island nations of the South Pacific. Dates and further details on cost and travel itinerary will be disclosed early in the schooling year to allow time to budget and plan.

# Additional Training

Students undertaking Formation or Leadership training are encouraged to maintain a posture of readiness and availability to attend and serve at additional church events and gatherings, to be engaged in prayer ministry and support as well as coordinated evangelism efforts in partnership with our Outreach & Evangelism teams.

Your time in FSM will likely be a faster-paced season than others that will require you to steward your time wisely. Part of your discipleship will be learning how to intentionally carve out time for rest and delight and to meet with God daily.



## When is FSM happening?

Training is held weekly on Tuesday from 6.30pm - 9.30pm. The FSM 2024 curriculum year commences on February 6 for Foundation students and February 13 for Formation and Leadership students.

## What do I need?

To be best prepared you'll need to have a Bible. A study Bible is recommended, though not necessary. Plus a note-taker of your preference, be that a device or pen and notebook.

## What does it cost?

Following Jesus will cost you everything. But if you're looking for the fees to train at FSM, then you'll find more info [here](#).

## Do you offer online school?

We currently only offer onsite training and will consider scaling our offering as interest and demand for an online alternative increases.

## How do I enrol?

Easy, hit the link below and we'll be in touch.

**ENROL NOW**



Freedom  
School  
of Ministry

To enquire further, please email:  
[grace@freedomcentre.net](mailto:grace@freedomcentre.net)