



transformational stewardship for today's church

IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE

A Step-by-Step Strategy for Your Church

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With contributions from the
Good \$ense Ministry team of
Willow Creek Community Church



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Good \$ense Implementation Guide

Objectives

The **Implementation Guide** can be understood as a road map that will guide you to the ultimate destination – a thriving Good \$ense Ministry in your church. The implementation process described in these pages shows the recommended route for launching and implementing your ministry. As with any map, there are certainly alternate routes you can take, and you may choose to adapt the route to your unique circumstances. However, it is important to note that to develop an effective Good \$ense Ministry, you must travel through all four phases:

- Phase 1: Commitment
- Phase 2: Development
- Phase 3: Launch
- Phase 4: Expansion

These phases include laying a Leadership foundation, training Good \$ense counselors for year-round ministry, annually presenting the *Good \$ense Budget Course* multiple times, and integrating the Good \$ense Ministry into the life of other ministries throughout the church.

It is our hope and recommendation that you begin by establishing a complete and ongoing Good \$ense Ministry. If it is not possible for you to do so at this time, you may opt to begin modestly and then work toward launching a fully integrated ministry. As a starting point, you may teach the *Good \$ense Budget Course* but wait to create a core team and train counselors. If you choose this approach as a first step, portions of the process will still be helpful to you in presenting the *Good \$ense Budget Course*. Should you decide to use the success of the *Good \$ense Budget Course* to launch an ongoing ministry, you can do so by going back and working through all four phases of the implementation process.

Following is an overview of the four phases:

Phase One “The Commitment”

Purpose: The purpose of this phase is to secure commitment from a Good \$ense Ministry champion, core team, and senior church leadership.

Steps: During this phase, preliminary support from senior church leadership is obtained, a ministry champion is commissioned, a Good \$ense core team is formed and educated, a Good \$ense vision and a proposal are prepared, and ongoing commitment is secured from senior church leadership.

Importance: In order for a Good \$ense Ministry to reach its potential as a fully integrated ministry of your church, it is necessary to have a committed ministry champion and core team who feel called to provide sustained leadership, a vision to keep the ministry on course, and a detailed proposal so that senior leadership can fully commit to the requirements of the ministry. Without these components, a Good \$ense Ministry may be able to conduct a few courses and counsel a few people, but it will fail to maximize the impact it could have in transforming hearts and lives.

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Objectives (Continued)

Phase Two “Development”

Purpose: The purpose of the development phase is to prepare counselors, teachers, and any support people so that they are in place when the Good \$ense Ministry goes “public”.

Steps: In this phase, volunteers will be recruited and trained, the ministry office will be set up, and counseling groups will begin meeting.

Importance: The teachers and counselors will be on the front lines of implementing the ministry vision. It is critical that these individuals are thoroughly trained in their roles and that they have the support they need.

Caution: The Good \$ense Ministry will not be successful without volunteers who have the appropriate spiritual gifts. *Network*, a curriculum and ministry that helps individuals discover and employ their spiritual gifts, is an excellent tool for this purpose. For more information on *Network*, visit the Willow Creek Association website: www.willowcreek.com.

Phase Three “Launch”

Purpose: The purpose of the launch phase is to go public with the first offerings of the ministry. It is the fulfillment of the tremendous efforts of your Good \$ense core team to date.

Steps: In this phase, the vision will be communicated to the congregation, the *Good \$ense Budget Course* will be presented, counseling services will begin and the course and services will be evaluated with progress affirmed and action plans for improvement implemented.

Importance: There is only one chance to make a good impression as you prepare to go public with the Good \$ense Ministry and offer the first Good \$ense Budget Course and counseling services.

Phase Four “Expansion”

Purpose: The purpose of this phase is to develop the Good \$ense Ministry into an ongoing, year-round integrated ministry. In this phase, we seek to expand both the counseling and teaching arms of the ministry and to establishing ministry partnerships throughout the church in which Good \$ense teaching can be customized to facilitate the goals of the other ministries while furthering the church-wide understanding of the Biblical Financial Principles on which Good \$ense is based.

Steps: In this ongoing phase, additional counselors will be selected, the number and variety of Good \$ense courses will be increased, and you will identify other church ministries to partner with.

Importance: Money and our relationship to it is a huge part of life and a huge part of our spiritual well-being and growth. Consequently, the Good \$ense Ministry leadership should consistently look for appropriate ways in which the ministry can more fully serve the church at large. Specially adapted teaching and training opportunities for specific segments of the congregation can be an effective way to do so.

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