



2026 STUDENT HANDBOOK FINLAND EDITION

*Experience the story.
Make disciples.*

Aug 13 - Nov 7

[HTTPS://LIGHTBEARERS.ORG/
ARISE/FINLAND](https://lightbearers.org/arise/finland)



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ARISE



HELLO

So you're considering ARISE? Awesome. Maybe you heard about us from your pastor, a friend, the internet, or your brother-in-law's second cousin who spoke at a church conference last year. Regardless of how the idea got into your head, we're excited that God might be leading you in our direction.

Maybe you already know where your life is headed. Maybe you don't. Either way, we believe God has a beautiful story for your life and it's found in Scripture: you were meant to be a disciple-maker. No matter what career you choose—pastor, poet, plumber—Jesus has called all His followers to be disciple-making disciples.

The inclosed information is designed to give you a clear picture of what ARISE is all about. If you still have questions after reading, please don't hesitate to [contact us](#) directly. We're excited about the possibility of you joining our program. At the end of the day, we pray that God will use ARISE in a mighty way to make more committed disciples of Jesus.

WHY WE EXIST

ARISE exists to make disciple-making disciples.

We are a discipleship training program and it's our mission to empower people to understand, experience, and share the gospel in whatever life-path they pursue or setting they find themselves in. We want to equip the church and saturate the world with gospel-centred disciples who are devoted to God and passionate about ministry in light of who He has designed them to be.

So whether you want to be a pastor, a plumber, or a biomedical engineer, we want to inspire and equip you to fulfil the gospel commission. Because we are all called to tell His story and make disciples.

GET WITH THE
PROGRAM

THE WAY IT WORKS

The ARISE program is made up of two main components: in-class instruction and hands-on ministry experience. We call our curriculum *The Story*. With over 250 hours of instruction, it forms the major part of the program. Classes are divided into three categories: The Story, The Telling, and Biblical Doctrines. For the hands-on portion of the program, students spend approximately 80 hours doing various forms of outreach in the community and serving the local church.

Our team is committed to providing a program and environment that lends itself to academic and spiritual excellence. We pour our hearts and souls into helping our students reach their full ministry potential. But we'll be the first to admit that ARISE is a little—and sometimes very—intense. During the 13 weeks, we try to include as much instruction, training, and ministry opportunity as possible without overloading our students. This is not an easy tightrope to walk, so we encourage our students to minimise distractions and maintain a healthy lifestyle so they can gain as much as possible from the training provided. Furthermore, due to the intensity of the course, students are not permitted to work or be employed while attending ARISE.

This year's ARISE program runs from Aug 13 to Nov 7. Students should plan to arrive for registration and move into their accommodation on Aug 12 2026.

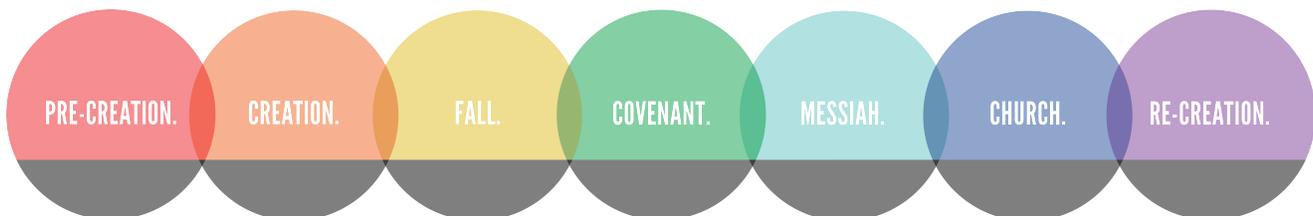
THE STORY

The Bible is the most incredible book ever written. It's full of stories, poetry, prophecies, songs, science, romance, history, and much more. However, because of this astounding diversity, we often view the Bible the same way we view a church potluck: some things look amazing, some intriguing, and some are downright scary. And we can't seem to find a common thread tying any of it together.

At ARISE, we believe the Bible isn't just a list of ethics or a collection of random stories and historical documents. Rather, it is one big story—the story. From Genesis to Revelation, Old Testament to New, it's a grand narrative of God redeeming humanity and revealing His character through His Son, Jesus Christ. We've titled our curriculum *The Story* because we believe the Bible is best understood when we keep this framework in mind. Seeing the Bible as a story gives us a clearer picture of who God is, what He's like, and what His plan is for the world and for each of us individually. It also gives us a clear direction and sense of place when we study the Bible. Everything in Scripture fits somewhere in the narrative.

The story also changes us experientially. As we study, the Bible reveals *our* role in the story, showing us where we've come from, where we are, and where we're going. And by extension, we learn how to teach others where they've come from, where they are, and where they're going, which is essentially what it means to be a disciple-making disciple.

We've divided *The Story* into seven chronological chapters: Pre-Creation, Creation, Fall, Covenant, Messiah, Church, and Re-Creation.



Classes that follow these chapters give our students a sweeping view of the entire Biblical narrative and make up the bulk of our instruction. Our goal during the ARISE program is to immerse our students in the story of Scripture and give them the best foundation for a life of disciple-making. It doesn't take long for our students to learn that this story is one worth telling. And by God's grace, they'll share the story with others, who will share it with others, who will share it with others.

BIBLICAL DOCTRINES

The Story also impacts our study of the Bible when it comes to doctrine. Biblical doctrines are sometimes viewed as isolated truths that are to be defended dogmatically simply because they are correct. If we're not careful, our beliefs can become weapons to prove someone else wrong. But in the context of the story, all of our doctrines and theological teachings find their proper places in relation to the character of God. Rather than being merely a collection of truths, the story tells us that every doctrine is a window through which we can see *the Truth*.

Spread throughout the program, our Biblical Doctrines classes cover the core teachings of Scripture. Each study will be faith-affirming, Christ-centred, and thoroughly biblical. Students will be taught how to give effective Bible studies that cover the [fundamental beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church](#).¹ They will also be taught how to address common difficult texts with effective answers using Scripture.

THE TELLING

When it comes to sharing the story, it's not just about what you do but how you do it. Good stories need good storytellers. That's why our curriculum includes a section of instruction we call The Telling. More practical in nature, these classes are intended to get into the real-life praxis of ministry. They cover how to actually prepare and give a Bible study, how to answer tough questions about faith, and much more. Students learn how to translate the *why* of discipleship to the *how* of disciple-making, the in-class theory to real-life experience.

OUTREACH

Ministry in the community is the heart and soul of disciple-making, and no discipleship training program would be complete without hands-on experience. The ARISE program includes outreach two to three times a week. This allows students to take their class knowledge into a real world filled with real people who have real struggles and questions. Due to the fact that many students will not speak the local language (Finnish), our team will need to get creative! Whilst many people in the community can speak English, we cannot assume that they can. Students will therefore be provided with opportunities to participate in a wide variety of outreach experiences including but not limited to: small groups, literature distribution, community social events, door-knocking, church revitalisation and also media evangelism.

¹ adventist.org/beliefs

OTHER COMPONENTS

SCRIPTURE MEMORISATION

During the program, ARISE students memorise key passages of Scripture, 55 verses in 86 days to be exact. Tests will be administered weekly by the ARISE dean. Please note that those whose mother tongue is English for cohesion and simplicity tests will be based on the New King James Version. We understand that for many students English is not their mother tongue and therefore we do make room for each student to memorise scripture in their mother tongue if this is preferred.

MORNING WORSHIPS

Morning worship is held every day of class and is a critical part of individual and class growth. Each student will prepare and share a thought or their testimony for one of the morning worships.

BOOK READING

Our required reading assignments are carefully designed to be engaging and informative. Once each book is completed, students will participate in a discussion of the book in assigned groups.

DAILY SCHEDULE

While the schedule varies from week to week, most weeks will follow the times outlined below.

Sunday: Day off

Monday – Thursday:

7:30 – 8:00 am	Morning Worship
8:00 – 9:00 am	Breakfast
9:30 – 1:30 pm	Class
1:30 – 3:00 pm	Lunch & Personal Time
3:00 – 5:00 pm	Class (Mon & Tue)
3:00 – 7:30 pm	Outreach (Wed & Thur)

Friday: Class and Outreach on occasional Fridays

Sabbath: Church service - Mikkeli SDA Church

THE STORY CURRICULUM

THE STORY

PROLOGUE

So why story? What difference does it make? Prologue makes the case for the power of story and lays the framework and foundation for a narrative approach to Scripture.

PRE-CREATION

Most of us have read the Bible's opening line, "In the beginning God created . . ." But what was He doing before that? What kind of God is He? Chapter 1 of The Story introduces us to who God is and His eternal nature of other-centred love.

CREATION

Love naturally finds expression, and God's love was expressed in the creation of humanity. Chapter 2 paints a picture of the world as God originally intended it to be: overflowing with complete joy, beauty, and freedom.

FALL

God's plan was beautiful, but something went terribly wrong. His love was rejected and the freedom He gave humanity was abused. Chapter 3 dissects how this fall from love has made our world what it is today and sets the stage for the rest of Scripture.

COVENANT

After the Fall, God does the unthinkable. He makes a promise—a covenant—to save humanity and keep loving us at any cost to Himself. Chapter 4 traces the history of God's covenantal faithfulness and humanity's consistent failure to live in light of God's promise.

MESSIAH

Chapter 5 introduces us to the God who not only makes a promise but keeps it too: Messiah. The Old Testament is filled with story after story of human failure to keep covenant with God. So God Himself became one of us, doing for us what we could never do for ourselves.

CHURCH

As the disciples shared the good news of God's covenantal faithfulness, they turned the world upside down with the gospel. This is the church. Chapter 6 explains God's mission for His people and how He will see it through to completion.

RE-CREATION

The story starts in a perfect world and ends in a perfect world. Chapter 7 reveals how God will wipe out evil once and for all, and then recreate the earth so that it is again filled with eternal beauty, love, and freedom.

THE TELLING

God chooses the unthinkable - to include you and I in His plan to tell the story of His redeeming love. Jesus 'got' people, and He was a Master at making the gospel accessible to all. We have the privilege of learning from Jesus how to effectively share the blessing with our world.

BIBLICAL DOCTRINES

Word of God
Who is God (Trinity)
Sabbath
Great Controversy
Nature of Man
Law of God
Sabbath Study
Sanctuary
Judgement
Antichrist
70-Week Prophecy
2300-Day Prophecy
Salvation
Remnant Church
Gift of Prophecy
Mark of the Beast
Millennium/Hell
Second Coming

OUR TEAM AND INSTRUCTORS

WHO WE ARE

We're not gonna lie. The ARISE team is made up of some weird people. Diverse in backgrounds and experiences, our core staff bring together a large spread of perspectives; we are joined by our love for Jesus and a passion for discipleship.

Our instructors are leaders in their fields of ministry. Their expertise and knowledge are drawn from years of walking with Jesus and getting their hands dirty while sharing the gospel.

As a collective of sold-out Jesus-followers, we are committed to developing disciple-making disciples. All of our instructors come prepared to share potent teachings on what it means to truly understand God's love and tell His story.

ADMINISTRATION TEAM



BRAEDAN ENTERMANN
Director/Instructor



LEVI JOHNSON
Director/Instructor



JOHN HALMAI
Administrator



MIKAEL TAKAMAA
*ARISE Networking + Union
Teens Leader*



AMY HEINÄNEN
Admin Team

PRIMARY INSTRUCTORS



TY GIBSON
*Co-Director, Light Bearers
Ministry*



DAVID ASSCHERICK
*Co-Director, Light Bearers
Co-Founder ARISE*



LEVI JOHNSON
Director/Instructor



ANGELO GRASSO
Instructor



ROBBY MORGAN
Instructor



BRAEDAN ENTERMANN
Director/Instructor

But wait, there's more! In addition to our primary instructors, students will be blessed by an exciting line up of visiting and adjunct instructors will be sharing on a wide variety of topics in their fields of expertise.

Student Life

CAMPUS LIFE

LOCATION

Our ARISE program is hosted at Koivikko Lifestyle Centre in Finland's beautiful lake district. The property is located 10 minutes from the city of Mikkeli which has a population of 50,000. The property is situated 2.5 hours north of Helsinki and is accessible by public transport. Koivikko Lifestyle Centre is blessed with 83 acres of forest and farmland with a lovely natural lakefront and beach sauna.

Onsite, we have a small sports gymnasium where students can play basketball and other sports. All around the property are marked nature walks with peaceful and refreshing views. Student housing, dining hall, classroom and social spaces are all located onsite.

CARE OF FACILITIES

We ask that students show respect for the grounds and property. Students will also be assigned in teams within their house groups. Together, teams will be accountable to each other and responsible for respecting their fellow students and their accommodation.

SOCIAL LIFE

In addition to providing opportunities for spiritual growth, our team is dedicated to providing students with an opportunity to build lasting friendships and experience the beauty of the Finnish culture. We plan to organise regular social events and adventures for our students.

LIFE GROUPS

Every Tuesday afternoon students participate in Life Groups. The life groups that are run include knitting, rock-climbing, running, and a handful of other social groups. These groups help students build friendships, engage missionally with people outside the classroom, and stay physically active. We encourage any of our students to bring along items such as running shoes, activewear, climbing shoes and/or knitting supplies if they already own them. Note also that there will be opportunity to rent climbing shoes or buy knitting supplies if needed. During

the span of the program you will have opportunity to try as many or as little of these life groups as you please.

FINNISH SAUNA

You may have heard that Finns love saunas. Traditionally Finns like to sauna naked. Yes, you read that right! We have, however, thoughtfully saved you from this part of the Finnish experience. We will have many students from various cultural backgrounds in the class and we want to be respectful and appropriate for all. For this reason there will be a male sauna time and a female sauna time. There will be plenty of opportunities to enjoy the sauna, as onsite we have several saunas including a lake-front sauna. Appropriate and modest swimwear will be required for both men and women. So, don't be scared of the sauna! You will love it.

PERSONAL LIFE

All students are expected to live in harmony with biblical principles and to adhere to the [standards and practices of the Seventh-day Adventist Church](#).²

PERSONAL DEVOTION TIME

One of the keys to experiencing the full potential of the program is faithfulness in the area of personal devotions. Personal time spent with God enables and empowers students to experience dynamic Christianity and effective ministry.

ATTENDANCE

Students are required to attend all scheduled classes, events, and outreach projects unless other arrangements have been made and approved by the administrator beforehand. We expect students to communicate effectively, be punctual and to show respect for instructors, staff, and fellow classmates.

SABBATH OBSERVANCE

Our favourite time to spend together is the Sabbath. So students should plan to attend all worship services as part of the ARISE experience. We hope that if students haven't

² adventist.org/beliefs

already found the joy of this beautiful rest, that their time spent here will deepen their Sabbath experience.

The Sabbath takes on a unique twist here in Finland as we are situated so far North. With that comes new challenges that many of you may not have faced before. As we approach November the sunset times get earlier and earlier, until on the last day of our course the sun will set at 3:51pm. This is quite a big change considering the sunset will have been at 9:27pm on the opening day. With this in mind it will be important to take into consideration how this will affect the Sabbath hours.

RELATIONSHIPS

Our team celebrates the gift of marriage and healthy relationships which is why all students are expected to maintain a high standard of moral purity. ARISE is a once-in-a-lifetime experience and due to the intensity of the ARISE program and the need to minimise distractions, students are requested to focus on course content, building their relationship with God and to save the romance till after the program. But we have good news for all you singles! Many relationships have formed and blossomed after ARISE.

ATTIRE

As a team, we not only appreciate but celebrate personality and individuality expressed in diverse styles of clothing. We simply ask that while at ARISE, students' dress be clean and modest. It should reflect the fact that we are brothers and sisters in Christ. With that in mind, we trust that students will refrain from wearing anything that would be distracting.

EVERYDAY LIFE

HOUSING

Students will be accommodated onsite in fully-furnished, newly-renovated dorms rooms and apartments with 2 - 4 students of the same gender. Each dorm room has its own bathroom with a shower and toilet. The apartments on site have multiple rooms and shared bathrooms.

The rooms/apartments come complete with pillows and blankets. **Students are responsible for their own bedlinen, towels and toiletries (beds are 90cmx200cm)**

Wireless internet access is available across most of the property. Students are responsible for keeping their living quarters neat and clean. The staff will do regular accommodation checks to ensure the cleanliness and standard of living is kept high. When moving out, the accommodation must be left in the same condition as they were upon arrival.

WEATHER

Yes, that's right, Finland isn't always covered in snow. Our program will cover 4 very different months (Aug-Nov) and packing might be your first challenge. August is often a beautiful month in Finland and temperatures can range from around 14 - 22 degrees celsius. During this time nature has been preparing ready-made snacks as you can find all sorts of berries right from the forest floor (see if you can find the rare berry that the Finns call "Lakka"). Soon though, fall will be on its way, and you will have the opportunity of experiencing the wonderful colours of autumn. But of course, winter comes after fall. Usually half way through September and deep into October the temperatures are around 4 -15 degrees celsius. Then comes the month of November. It is possible for the weather to go below zero and even snow during the course but more often than not the end of October and the beginning of November is the rainiest month of the program. We hope this helps as you try and fit your whole wardrobe into your suitcase.

INCOMING MAIL

Mail and parcels are possible to send and receive while you are at ARISE. Below is the address to which the sender will write on their parcels. Please note that any parcels/ letters coming from abroad go through a process that is difficult if the receiver is not Finnish or a permanent resident. For this reason we recommend placing as the receiver one of our staff so we can retrieve this package for you without any dramas. Please get in contact for the appropriate staff member to insert as the receiver.

Name of Staff/Student
Koivikontie 8, 50200 Mikkeli
FINLAND

MEALS & BEVERAGES

Breakfast and lunch will be provided from Monday through Friday, and eaten together on campus. In the application process you will be able to make us aware of your allergies. Due to catering for so many our kitchen team is

unable to cater for preferences. Students are responsible for evening meals and all meals Friday evening - Sunday. (Please note, all church lunches will be provided.)

We want your time at ARISE to be transformational both spiritually and physically. Our team will do its best to provide tasty, enjoyable, meals every day. The meals will be plant-based and will even feature produce grown on campus.

At ARISE, we are committed to fostering a balanced and health-centered atmosphere for all participants. To support this goal, we've chosen to maintain a caffeine-free environment during our program. If you do decide to consume caffeine we ask kindly that you do it in a way that doesn't affect your fellow student who may be taking this opportunity to step away from caffeine, or to try a season without it.

In the interest of keeping our classroom clean and maintaining an environment conducive to focus, no food or beverages will be permitted in class. Water, of course, is fine.

DUTY ROTATION

Students will participate in various daily duties and jobs to keep the facilities clean, such as meal and kitchen clean-up. These duties are an important part of the program. Students will be divided into groups and put into a rotation. These duties foster a sense of unity and responsibility.

MOBILE PHONES

Whilst we recognise that it is difficult to do life in the 2020's without a mobile phone we respectfully ask that each student refrain from using them during class time, except in the case of emergencies. There is adequate time between classes to check messages etc.

We also encourage our students to keep in mind a high level of respect for our teachers and instructors as many of them have spent hours in preparation, traveled a long way and are giving of their time to present their topics in class.

Additionally, in light of the growing data regarding social media's affect on mental health, we encourage students to see ARISE as a time to minimise screen time and unwind.

PROHIBITED ITEMS

Under no circumstances will any illicit drugs, nicotine products, alcoholic beverages, vapes, pornographic material, occult paraphernalia, weapons, gang symbols, or any other harmful items be tolerated on campus. We also do not permit students to bring gaming consoles etc. These things are prohibited in the interest of the well-being of all participants and the discovery of any of these items may lead to immediate program dismissal, without a refund. However, we want you to know that if you are facing struggles and temptations, you can talk to us openly as we are here to help you on your journey to freedom in Christ.

MEDIA USE

To help you get the most out of this transformative experience, we ask that you refrain from gaming or watching movies during the course. This allows you to focus fully on your spiritual growth, connect deeply with God, and engage meaningfully with the community around you. By setting aside distractions, you'll create space to immerse yourself in all that this journey has to offer.

STUDENT DISMISSAL

ARISE reserves the right to dismiss any student, without a refund, who consistently fails to abide by the policies and guidelines described in this handbook.

APPLICATION DETAILS

THE PROCESS

ARISE accepts students who have a commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ and His Word. Due to legal reasons, we can only accept students who are at least 18 years old by the starting date of the program.

The ARISE staff will only consider and review completed applications. The application process is as follows:

1. ARISE receives your completed application.
2. After staff review, you will be notified with either acceptance or denial by email. If you are accepted, the letter will include instructions to which you can make any necessary payments.
3. A minimum deposit payment of 50% of your tuition is due no later than 60 days prior to the start of the program.
4. The final payment of your total balance is due no later than 30 days prior to the start of the program.

A completed application includes **all** of the following:

1. A completed online ARISE application form, which must also include:
 - A link to a one-minute video telling us a bit about yourself and the reasons you want to come to ARISE. Don't overthink it. Just relax and be yourself. Feel free to be creative.
 - A recent photograph of yourself
2. Three reference forms sent directly to ARISE by the individuals that filled them out ([online preferred](#))
3. A non-refundable processing fee of 20 euros.

All applications will be processed in the order in which they are received. Students will be notified in a timely manner regarding their acceptance or denial to the program. Enrolment is limited, so we encourage you to submit your application sooner than later. Rather than an application deadline, application acceptance is based on room availability and space in the class.

REFERENCES

References are to be filled out by individuals that have known you for at least six months. Reference forms filled out by immediate or extended family members will not be accepted. Due to the nature of the questions on the form, it is ideal to find individuals that have known you in a spiritual or academic setting, though it is not required (e.g., a pastor, teacher, elder/deacon, etc.). Reference forms can be completed by sending individuals the following link .

<https://lightbearers.org/arise/finland/reference>

These must remain confidential from the prospective student.

HEALTH/MEDICAL ISSUES

Because we care deeply for the safety and best interest of the students and program, it is highly important that potential students disclose to the staff any medical or health issues that require professional attention. This includes any past, recent, or current substance abuse/addictions. Since the staff is not equipped to handle certain medical and/or health issues, a student requiring professional help may not be eligible to attend the program or, in his or her best interest, may be asked to leave the program, according to the staff's discretion.

Please note that it is mandatory for international students to purchase travel insurance to cover the duration of their stay in Finland. Proof of travel and health insurance must be emailed to the administrator prior to arrival.

THE MONEY PART

TUITION AND BOARD

The cost of the program is **€3,500**. This amount includes tuition, room, and breakfast and lunch on class days. Once accepted, a minimum of 50% of tuition is due no later than 60 days prior to the start of the program. The balance is due no later than 30 days prior to the start. NOTE: For students who apply within 60 days from the start of the program, the first half of tuition is due once they've received acceptance. This deposit reserves their place in the class. If a student applies within 30 days from the start of the program, full tuition is due once an acceptance notice is received.

RESOURCES

Please see the Resource List on page 22 for a full breakdown of required and recommended resources and their costs.

We recommend that students who are able bring with them a laptop or preferred method for note taking. Also note, because of the nature of the location, accommodation, and outreach activities, it is required that all students have a mobile phone on them at all times with access to Whatsapp. Local call, text and data prepaid plans are available starting from approximately €20/month.

TRANSPORTATION

For those who live within driving distance of ARISE Finland, we encourage you to bring your car if possible. This will ease our transportation challenges. Students who bring vehicles must be willing to provide rides to those who do not have vehicles. All vehicles must be licensed and insured. Students who are not bringing a vehicle are required to pay a **€180 fuel fee**, which helps cover the expenses for those with vehicles. Please note that this fee only applies to ARISE-related activities. Students who need rides for non-ARISE-related activities are encouraged to help the driver cover fuel and other vehicle costs.

OVERALL COST

The following is a breakdown of the program cost:

Tuition (room/meals)	€3,500
Application Fee	€20
Required Books	up to €50
Fuel fee	(if no car €180)
TOTAL (EUR)	€3,570

REFUND POLICY

All cancellations must be made in writing and mailed or emailed to ARISE no less than 14 days prior to the beginning of the program for a full refund. At the discretion of the administrative team, partial refunds may be made available to cooperative students who have to withdraw within the first 14 days of the course. After the first 14 days no refund is available.

RESOURCE LIST

BOOKS YOU'LL NEED

The following is a list of resources for the ARISE program. Although not all are required, we encourage students to seriously consider ordering the recommended resources, as they provide excellent supplementary material for the program as well as for personal ministry. Each student is required to source and purchase the required books and bring them to the program. Here is the list of *Required* and *Recommended* resources. Please note that the prices are approximate - the price of purchasing these books may vary depending where you live and where you purchase them from.

REQUIRED RESOURCES

<i>Steps to Christ</i> by Ellen G. White*	€11.00
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We recommend a lovely edition of this book produced by *Types and Symbols*. You can order it [here](#).

<i>A God Named Desire</i> by Ty Gibson*	€15.00
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<i>Letters from a Skeptic</i> by Dr Gregory Boyd*	€15.00
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<i>1844 Made Simple</i> by Clifford Goldstein*	€7.50
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New King James Bible

Total	€48.50 **
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RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

We have intentionally reduced the number of required readings from years in the past. Several of these have been moved to the list below as 'Recommended resources.' If at all possible, we recommend purchasing and reading the titles below before attending the program.

<i>Thoughts from the Mount of Blessings</i> by Ellen G White	€0.70
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<i>Sonship of Christ</i> by Ty Gibson	€16.50
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<i>28 Fundamental Beliefs of Seventh-day Adventists</i>	€8.45
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<i>Studying Together</i> by Mark Finley	€6.68
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<i>A Brief History of SDA's</i> by George Knight	€8.43
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Total	€40.76 **
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* Indicates that the book must be read during the course to graduate.

**Prices are an estimate

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

THINGS THAT GET ASKED A LOT

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO FIND OUT IF I'M ACCEPTED?

Once we receive a completed online application, application fee, and three references, we will typically review the application and email a final decision within two weeks. The longest wait is usually for reference forms, so applicants should be sure to ask their references to submit the online reference forms as soon as possible.

CAN I GET COLLEGE CREDIT FOR ATTENDING THE ARISE PROGRAM?

ARISE is not an accredited school. Therefore, we cannot guarantee college/university credit for completing the program. Although ARISE is able to issue a transcript, it is at the discretion of each receiving school whether or not the credits will be accepted for transfer.

AS AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT, DOES ARISE HELP ME GET A VISA?

Since ARISE is not an accredited school, attendees of our program are not officially students from an immigration standpoint. Therefore, they do not need a special visa for international students, such as a residence permit (an A or B permit for study). International (non-European) attendees typically use the 90 day Schengen visa which is automatic for citizens of most countries, however you should check your country's eligibility. Please note that this 90-day visa is 90 days within 180 days, therefore you may need a visa if you have spent time in the Schengen area in the months leading up to ARISE. Consult your travel agent if you have questions. The course length is 86 days, which allows students ample time to fly in and out within this window.

Citizens from the European union have no restrictions on their length of stay in Finland. Prospective attendees need to contact their country's immigration office for details. At the time of acceptance, ARISE will provide international attendees with an official invitation letter, which includes dates, housing information, ARISE's address, a description of the program, etc.

HOW DOES ARISE COMPARE TO OTHER EVANGELISM SCHOOLS?

Because we have not done comparative research on any other program, the best way to see the difference between our program and any other is to compare the information (curriculum, instructors, philosophy, format, etc.) from each school. All of our information is available on our website. An important thing to note is that our primary goal is not to train Bible workers, pastors, or evangelists, though some graduates do follow those career paths. Rather, our goal is to develop disciples and strengthen their relationships with Christ. Most of our students do not come with the purpose of going into full-time ministry. Though some feel called to full-time ministry after the program, most graduates go back to their schools, churches, and communities as lay members who have a passion to spread the gospel.

WHAT IS THE TYPICAL AGE OF THE PEOPLE IN THE PROGRAM?

We only accept students that are at least 18 years old by the time the program begins. However, there is no age limit in our program. The majority of our students are typically between 18-30, but we've also had students in their 40s, 50s, and 60s, and beyond.

WHAT IS THE TYPICAL SIZE OF A CLASS?

We usually plan our class sizes to be around 30-40 students, which allows for ideal group dynamics.

CAN I WORK OR STUDY WHILE ATTENDING ARISE?

Due to the very intense schedule and the need to be focused throughout the program, students are not permitted to work or take other classes while attending ARISE.

DOES ARISE HAVE WORK THAT I CAN DO TO HELP PAY FOR MY TUITION?

ARISE does not have any work positions available before, during, or after the program for students. Furthermore, our policy states that the full tuition amount must be paid no later than 30 days prior to the start of the program.

WHAT AM I EQUIPPED TO DO AFTER THE PROGRAM?

ARISE is a discipleship training program that aims to teach the loving character of God through the biblical narrative and to give instruction on how to be an effective witness for Christ. Lord willing, this will result in our students going back to their jobs, schools, and churches as on-fire disciples for Jesus. Some graduates feel called by God to go into full-time ministry, and our program can help build a foundation for that. However, our primary goal is to equip people to be disciples in any career path they pursue or walk of life.

DOES ARISE HIRE GRADUATES OR PLACE THEM IN MINISTRY POSITIONS?

We do not hire graduates and cannot guarantee full- or part-time ministry positions elsewhere after the completion of the program. However, if we receive calls from churches, conferences, or ministries with job opportunities, we send them recommendations of graduates that we think could be a good fit. These recommendations are made on a case-by-case basis.

CAN I STAY LONGER AFTER THE PROGRAM AND BE INVOLVED IN MISSION?

There may be opportunities to stay in Finland or Europe and be involved in some sort of ministry practicum. These opportunities will be shared with the students as they arise.

TAKE YOUR
NEXT STEP

MAKE YOUR MOVE

So you made it to the end. Congratulations.

Just in case you missed it, here it is one last time: disciple-making is our passion. It's why we get up in the morning and what we think about as we fall asleep at night. Whether you feel called to take the gospel story to a corporate office downtown or to a cannibalistic tribe in a far-flung country, we want to empower you to make disciples wherever you are. So if you're interested in stepping outside of your comfort zone, growing in your walk with Jesus, enhancing your personal growth, and getting experience in ministry, please consider the ARISE program. We'd love to see you in August 2026!

APPLY NOW

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

<https://lightbearers.org/arise/finland>

TALK TO US

+ 358 406555524

EMAIL US

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[CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#)