



DISCIPLE DEVELOPMENT MONTH

“Financial Management God’s Way”

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Foundations: Finding Your Why and Managing the Month

Week 1 || 01.11.24

1. Understanding Your Natural Tendency with Money
 - a. People tend to be a financial nerd or free spirit
 - i. I tend to be a _____
 - ii. My spouse is more of a _____
 - iii. Nerds love spreadsheets, paying taxes early, and budgets
 - iv. Free spirits live life to the fullest and don’t worry about budgets

Notes:

2. You Need to Control Your Money, Don’t Let it Control You
 - a. The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil - 1 Timothy 6:10
 - b. Manage well what God has entrusted you - Proverbs 27:23
 - c. Creating and following a zero-based budget gives you control

Notes:

3. Find Your ‘Why’ to Sacrifice
 - a. Discipline seems painful but yields righteousness - Hebrews 12:11
 - b. What are you hoping to have later that is worth sacrificing for now?
 - c. Take time to dream and make financial goals

Notes:

4. Create Your Monthly Budget
 - a. Monthly income
 - b. Monthly expenses
 - i. 4 walls first – food, shelter, utilities, transportation

- ii. Add additional items by importance
- iii. Include giving
- iv. Include savings goals
- v. Include personal spending
- c. Couples must create and agree on the budget together

Notes:

- 5. Giving Needs to Be in Your Budget Regardless of Your Situation
 - a. Honor the Lord with your wealth - Proverbs 3:9-10
 - b. Give systematically and proportionally - 1 Corinthians 16:2
 - c. Give per plan, not what is left over - 2 Corinthians 9:7

Notes:

- 6. Track Your Spending
 - a. Daily or at most every 2-3 days track progress
 - b. Split up transactions for multiple categories
 - c. Track cash you withdraw
 - d. Don't fully rely on software tools to categorize spending
 - e. Adjust your budget as needed

Notes:

- 7. Budgeting Tools
 - a. Paper forms
 - b. Envelope System
 - c. EveryDollar - <http://www.everydollar.com>
 - d. Mint – <https://www.monarchmoney.com>
 - e. Excel

Notes:

- 8. Homework before next class
 - a. Find your 'why' to sacrifice - dream and make financial goals
 - b. Create your monthly budget and track expenses
 - c. Singles: get accountability partner and share budget with them
 - d. Note challenges you are facing and bring them to next class session

Small Group Questions:

1. How does understanding that you're a nerd or a free spirit help you in managing your finances (either as a single person or working with your spouse if you are married)?
2. Why is it important that both spouses have input and buy into the monthly budget?
3. How has money controlled you in the past? If you had a spending plan back then, how would it have helped you?
4. What's your 'why' for sacrificing and being disciplined with money? What do you hope to do in the future that you're not able to do now?
5. What seems difficult to you about building and following a monthly budget? If you've overcome struggles others mention, share those with your group to give them encouragement.
6. Why is giving an important component of a Christian's monthly budget even if money is tight and we don't feel like we have money to give?
7. What can happen during the month to throw off your budget? What can you do in response to these situations?
8. What tools have you personally found helpful in building and tracking a monthly budget?