

,Kingdom Training Level 5: Financial Faith
Lesson 5: Financial Planning
“Live for the line not the dot” Randy Alcorn, The Treasure Principle



Memory Verse: Prov 27:23 *Be sure you know the condition of your flocks, give careful attention to your herds*

I. Keep Your Eye on the Line

Ecclesiastes 5:10 *Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never _____ with their income. This too is meaningless.*

5:19 *Moreover, when God gives someone wealth and possessions, and the ability to enjoy them, to accept their lot and be happy in their toil—this is a _____ of God.*

a. Living for the DOT [our current life]

- You want things on your _____ terms – now!
- You don’t want to be troubled by making a _____
- You’re not really interested in _____
- You get easily distracted – short term vs. long
- You feel unsatisfied by life – never content
- You’re looking for a way to feel better about today

b. Living for the LINE [our eternal life]

- You have a _____ – confidently using God’s money
- You’re _____ – God knows your plans and so do people
- You’re unified with your spouse and communicate about finances without tension, fighting, bitterness, or fear
- You are not distracted – you “live in the moment”
- You take your leave!
- “Remember to _____”

II. Is it God’s Plan or Mine?

Proverbs 16:3 *Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.*

- Do we want his will or ours?
- Have we _____ our plan to God?
- In your prayer – give it to him. Delight yourself in the Lord...

Proverbs 15:22 *The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice.*

- We don’t have to do this alone
- Financial discipleship – _____ God in; _____ people into your life
- Wrestling with a financial decision... Start with prayer and advice!

Prov 21:5 *The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty.*

- Haste = moving forward without a _____ ...
- We all think our plan is right and justify our lack of diligence
- My plan would probably be “the easy way”
- His plan involves sacrifice, hard work, diligence
- Do I want GOD’s result? Then I must go with GOD’s _____!

Proverbs 27:23 *Be sure you know the condition of your flocks, give careful attention to your herds; for riches do not endure forever, and a crown is not secure for all generations.*

- God expects us to _____ money
- Why? Just because you have riches doesn't mean you will in the future
- **Budget Basics**
 - **Decide:** Wise vs. foolish approach to finances
 - **Plan:** do you have a wish list or a blueprint?
 - **Measure: Live within your means!**
- **Create your zero-based budget:**
 - $\text{Income} = \text{Expenses} - \text{_____}$ this equation!
- **Get Help!**
 - Dave Ramsey – Financial Peace University
 - Crown Financial Ministries, www.Mint.com
 - April is Financial Literacy Month!
<http://www.financialliteracymonth.com/30Steps.aspx>

III. Your Financial Plan This Time!

1. **Maximize Your Income** = your greatest _____
2. **Calculate your Net Income**
 - a. After Payroll deductions (taxes, SS, Medicare, Health Insurance)
 - b. **Baby Step 4: 15% into Tax-Favored Retirement Accounts** (IRA/Roth/401k) [low fee ETF]
 - c. Tithe...
3. **Start Saving;** Set _____ (Vacation, Retirement, Special Purchases: car/home)
 - a. **Baby Step 1: \$1000 Emergency Fund**
 - b. **Baby Step 3: Save 3-6 Months Income**
 - c. **Baby Step 5: Use Tax-Sheltered College Savings Plan (529)**
4. **Snowball Debt** – _____ credit cards, consumer loans, student loans, all debt!
 - a. **Baby Step 2: Use Debt Snowball** to eliminate debt (lowest to highest balance)
5. **Automate Fixed Expenses** (mortgage, insurance, utilities, car savings/payment)
 - a. Mortgage – 15-year fixed! **Baby Step 6: Pay off your mortgage early!**
 - b. Transportation – save up for your next car and then pay cash!
 - c. Utilities – negotiate your utilities – trash, cable, cell phone...
 - d. Term Life Insurance – never “whole” life; pay annually to save on premium
6. **Save for Variable Expenses**
 - a. These are _____!
 - b. Pay Early – retreats, camp, HYC, education, etc.
 - c. Negotiate auto repairs for 20% discount, military discount
 - d. Do your home improvement projects/repairs off-season and negotiate!
 - e. Use Flexible Spending Account (FSA) for tax-free medical expenses
7. **Use Cash for Discretionary Expenses**
 - a. Envelope System for Clothing [thrift stores], Food (Groceries + Eating Out), Personal Care, Entertainment, Gifts
 - b. Have and use Splurge/Blow Fund to celebrate life **Baby Step 7: Build Wealth and Give**
 - c. Learn to _____ money again

Ramsey's 7 "Baby Steps"

1. Start a \$1000 Emergency Fund
2. Create a Debt Snowball (lowest-highest balance)
3. Build Your Full Emergency Fund (3-6 months)
4. Put 15% in Roth IRAs & Pre-Tax Retirement Funds
5. Use Tax-Sheltered College Savings Plans (529)
6. Pay Off Your Home Early
7. Build Wealth and Give

IV. Seven Frugal Habits for Highly Effective Stewards

1. Avoid Addictions!

- a. Addictions leave a money trail
- b. Smokers spend \$5/day = \$1800/year
- c. Starbucks at \$4/day = \$1500/year
- d. Soft Drinks at a restaurant cost \$3/day = \$1000/year
- e. Alcohol at a restaurant costs \$15-30/weekly = \$1000-\$2000/year
- f. Shopping can be an addiction... track how much you spend...
- g. *I've been shopping all my life and still have nothing to wear*
- ✓ **Tip: commit "addiction money" to a greater cause**

2. Buyer Beware

- a. Everyone is trying to sell you something! You are a marketing magnet!
 - b. You can resist: Every store is having a SALE – that is what they do – sell stuff!
 - c. Be careful about the rush you feel when you look at “Shiny” things – we get a rush when we make a big purchase; we aren't thinking straight; we think we need it.
Before you buy: Ask advice; ask your spouse; wait a week...
 - d. Realize that salesmen are trained professionals – they know how to work you!
 - a. Understand their commission/motivation
 - b. Learn their tricks and how to negotiate!
 - c. Ex: Timeshares – why is the price cut by 80% from the first offer to out the door?
- ✓ **Tip: "incognito" online shopping using the Chrome browser!**
Psalm 35:8 – *catch them in the very trap they set, the disaster they planned for me.*

3. Deep-6 the 7-11

- a. Why pay twice as much for “convenience”?
- b. \$2 for a soda? Get a can for \$.025 or a 2 liter for \$2 at a grocery store
- c. Step away from the vending machine!
- ✓ **Tip: Bring a snack with you and save a bundle!**
- ✓ **Teen Tip: save your snack money \$1.25/day and become a MILLIONAIRE!**

4. Eat Out Economically

- a. Brothers: “Don't spend more on a date than you put in the plate!”
- b. Coupons: Groupons are typically 50% savings! Just don't overspend the total
- c. Split a large dish (or a “foot-long”) – Serving sizes are too big anyway
- d. Drink Tap Water: “Evian is naïve spelled backward,” Ramsey
- ✓ **Tip: Spend less when you go out and you can go out more frequently!**

5. Fiscal Fasting

- a. One week without spending any money
- b. Purge your body of the need to purchase things
- c. Remember: The best things in life aren't things!
- ✓ **Tip: It can wait...**

6. Premeditated Purchasing!

- a. Use a shopping list
 - Don't buy things that aren't on your list! Impulse buying kills our discretionary budget!
 - Planning ahead / delaying kills the impulse (saves money)
 - b. Buy the right item at the right store
 - COSTCO, Grocery, CVS – if you buy the wrong item at their store you overpay
 - Do I really need 5 lbs of COSTCO mustard?
 - Why does Giant sell patio furniture?
 - c. Slice the Cheese: Never buy insurance for a purchase
 - Auto “warranty,” electronics, cell phone, car rental, etc.
 - Salesman are rewarded for selling you “cheeeese”
 - If your kid will break it then buy a cheaper phone!
 - d. Skip the Lease
 - Cars – depreciate; beware of mileage; buy a used car!
 - iPhone lease – if it breaks, you owe full! Open box = ½ price!
 - Furniture, etc.
- ✓ **Tip: Look online and negotiate (even in the store)!**

7. Serious Splurging

- a. God wants you to **ENJOY** what he has given you!
 - b. **Live like no one else now... So that you can live and give like no one else later**
 - c. **Baby Step 7: Build Wealth and Give**
- ✓ **Tip: Leave room in your budget to be generous – even towards yourself!**