

## Finances

### Goals:

- To see what scripture says about our finances. 15% of everything Jesus said relates to money and possessions – more than His teachings on heaven and hell combined.
- To clarify our individual views of giving & to encourage us to give to the Lord

### Brainstorm:

- What does it mean to be a steward of God's money?
- How are you tempted to put hope in wealth?
- What motivates you to give, spend, save?

### Scripture:

**Matthew 6:24-26** You cannot serve both God and money. “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?”

**1 Timothy 6:6-10** But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

**Luke 6:38** Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

### Ponder Together:

- How has your faith in Christ impacted your view of and handling of finances?
- Do you feel like you are a generous person?
- What is your current practice of giving?
- How do you determine what and where you give?

### Application:

- Are there things you feel like are lacking or need to change in how you handle money?
- Are you too materialistic? Find a specific expense or activity that you could do without for the next couple of weeks and come back and talk about the experience of simple living
- Find some ways to be purposefully generous—start tithing, sponsor a child, etc.
- For the next 30 days start each time of prayer thanking God for “daily bread”—for all the ways he has blessed and enriched your life.

### Resources:

*Tools for Mentoring* by Joy Schroeder

*Freedom of Simplicity* by Richard Foster

*The Treasure Principle* by Randy Alcorn

**Handouts:** Give them the appropriate budget sheet to fill out and discuss next week.

## Basic Budget Sheet – On Campus Living

Do your best to calculate **monthly** amounts for each of these.

### Income:

Earned Income from Job..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Income from Parents ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Living Expenses Income from Student Loans (*NOT counting what goes directly towards tuition*) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Living Expenses income from Grants/Scholarships ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Total Monthly Gross Income** ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Expenses:

Taxes (usually 10-15% off your earned income)..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Total after taxes**..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Giving:

Tithe..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Charitable giving/other giving commitments..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Total** ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Savings:

General Savings: Money you are putting into savings..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Total** ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Housing/Living Expenses:

Monthly cost of living in the residence hall ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Food/Groceries – snacks you keep in your room..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Misc housing expenses (décor, pets, plants...) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Total cost/mo**..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Transportation:

Car Payment ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Gas ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Car Insurance ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Car or Bike Maintenance ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
License and Taxes (*usually about \$55 per year*)..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Public Transportation ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Parking ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Airfare ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Total** ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Debt: (credit cards & debt to be paid back now, not counting student loans)

Creditor #1 \_\_\_\_\_ Total Owed \_\_\_\_\_ per month \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Creditor #2 \_\_\_\_\_ Total Owed \_\_\_\_\_ per month \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Creditor #3 \_\_\_\_\_ Total Owed \_\_\_\_\_ per month \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Total** ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### School:

Tuition (Don't count automatic payments from student loans)... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Books/Supplies ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Total** ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Personal/Miscellaneous**

Medical Bills and Co-Pays .....	\$ _____
Prescription Meds .....	\$ _____
Cell Phone .....	\$ _____
Toiletries .....	\$ _____
Clothing.....	\$ _____
Haircuts .....	\$ _____
Newspaper, Magazine Subscriptions .....	\$ _____
Gifts .....	\$ _____
Entertainment (movies, concerts, Netflix, etc.) .....	\$ _____
Meals Out/Coffee .....	\$ _____
Office supplies/stamps/ink .....	\$ _____
Other _____ .....	\$ _____
Other _____ .....	\$ _____
Other _____ .....	\$ _____
Miscellaneous .....	\$ _____
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>\$ _____</b>

**Monthly Expense Totals:**

Giving .....	\$ _____
Savings .....	\$ _____
Housing/Living Expenses .....	\$ _____
Transportation .....	\$ _____
Debt .....	\$ _____
School .....	\$ _____
Personal/Miscellaneous.....	\$ _____
<b>Total Expenses</b> .....	<b>\$ _____</b>

***This total should not exceed your after taxes income). If it does, it's time to rework your budget!***

**Someone I can share this budget with to help keep me accountable:\_\_\_\_\_**

**Basic Budget Sheet – Off Campus Living**  
*Do your best to calculate Monthly amounts for each of these*

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**Total** ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Savings:**

General Savings..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Total** ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Housing/Living Expenses:**

Rent ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Food/Groceries ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Utilities..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
     Electricity ..... \_\_\_\_\_  
     Gas ..... \_\_\_\_\_  
     Water, Sewage, Garbage..... \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other "Special" Expenses: (cable, land line, internet, pet expenses)  
     \_\_\_\_\_ ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
     \_\_\_\_\_ ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
     \_\_\_\_\_ ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Repairs ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Total cost/mo**..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Transportation:**

Car Payment ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gas ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Car Insurance ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
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