

## Small Group Financial Management Lesson

(Lesson Taken from a Seminar at Saddleback Community Church on Financial Management)

What does our culture say to us today about Money Management?

Culture	Bible
Acquire It	Dedicate it to God
Enjoy it	Plan your spending
Repay because you overspent	Give- Giving is spending in light of eternity
Save - Once you are done may save	Save- Spending in light of eternity
Give when you are a little more secure	Repay – Spending in light of the past
Plan your spending	Enjoy – God desires we enjoy the fruit of our labor

1. **Dedicate** - The primary reason we dedicate everything to God is that it all belongs to Him anyway.
  - a. Psalm 50:10 (NIV)- *...for every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills.*
  - b. Psalm 24:1 (NIV) - *The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it;*
  - c. Dedicating my finances to God means I dedicate:
    - i. My financial plans
    - ii. My financial problems
    - iii. My financial decision
    - iv. My financial worries
    - v. My financial successes
  - d. What I earn and what I own comes from 3 sources:
    - i. Income = what I do
    - ii. Investments= what I know
    - iii. Inheritance = who I am or who I married
  
2. **Plan** -To plan successfully means I must...plan the work and work the plan.
  - a. Look honestly at where I am
    - i. Ecc. 7:14 (NIV) - *When times are good, be happy; but when times are bad, consider: God has made the one as well as the other. Therefore, a man cannot discover anything about his future.*
  - b. Practice keeping good records
    - i. Pro 27:23 (NIV) - *Be sure you know the condition of your flocks, give careful attention to your herds;*
    - ii. Lead my sheep (Have a budget)
    - iii. Count\_my sheep (Record my budget)
    - iv. Tend\_my sheep (Manage my budget)

3. **Give** – Giving is spending in light of eternity
- a. Two kinds of giving are identified in the Bible:
    - i. Tithe – the first 10%
    - ii. Offering – What I choose to give for kingdom causes from the remaining 90%
  - b. Why should I Tithe?
    - i. Because Jesus commanded it.
      1. Mat 23:23 (NIV) - *Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices - mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law - justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former.*
    - ii. Because tithing demonstrates that God has first place in your life.
      1. Deut. 14:23 (NIV) - *Eat the tithe of your grain, new wine and oil, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks in the presence of the LORD your God at the place he will choose as a dwelling for his Name, so that you may learn to revere the LORD your God always.*
  - c. Why should I give offerings?
    - i. Because it demonstrates my desire to follow God's example.
      1. John 3:16 (NIV) - *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*
    - ii. Because it helps develop a generous heart in me.
      1. 2 Corinthians 9:13 (NIV) - *Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else.*
4. **Save** – Saving is spending in light of the future.
- i. The principle of saving: Save little by little
    1. Prov. 13:11 (NIV) - *Dishonest money dwindles away, but he who gathers money little by little makes it grow.*
  - ii. The purpose of saving: to be prepared for known and unknown future spending needs.
  - iii. The power of saving:
    1. Warnings (Luke 12:16-20)
      - a. If you are not careful, it can lead to hoarding.
      - b. If you are not careful, it can lead to self-sufficiency.
    2. Wonders (Matthew 25:27)
      - a. The power of compound interest is amazing.

- b. The cumulative effect of *little by little* over a long period of time.
    - iv. Three types of savings
      - 1. Unpredictable Emergencies
      - 2. Predictable needs
      - 3. Planned future
- 5. **Repay** – Repaying is spending in light of the past.
  - a. The major problem with debt is bondage.
    - i. Prov. 22:7 (NIV) - *The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.*
  - b. The essential step to getting out of debt is making the commitment.
    - i. Psalm 37:5 (NIV) - *Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this:*
  - c. What are some dangerous kinds of debt?
    - i. Credit Card
    - ii. Unsecured
    - iii. Excessive lifestyle
  - d. What are some reasons why we get into debt?
    - i. Lack of discipline
    - ii. Not being content with what we have
  - e. Debt repayment is:
    - i. A requirement
    - ii. An opportunity
    - iii. A blessing
    - iv. A possibility
  - f. Rom. 13:8 (NIV) - *Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law.*
- 6. **Enjoy** – Enjoying is spending in light of the present.
  - a. To find financial enjoyment and balance I must:
    - i. Replace my comparison with contentment.
      - 1. Phil. 4:12-13 (NIV) - *I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength.*
      - 2. The secret is to stop the comparison trap.
    - ii. Avoid the two extremes:
      - 1. Of wanting everything
      - 2. Of denying yourself everything
        - I will spend *today's* money for *tomorrow* instead of *tomorrow's* money for *today*.

- b. How can I set a standard of living?
  - i. Live with an eternal perspective - Mark 8:36 (NIV) - *What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?*
  - ii. Live as a pilgrim – Hebrews 11:13
  - iii. Live without conforming- Romans 12:2
  - iv. Live without competing – Ecclesiastes 4:4
  - v. Live within my limits – Jeremiah 9:23
  - vi. Live as a steward (manager) – Matthew 25:21