



THE COMMUNITY

Living in the Freedom of Your Spending

What Do I Need to Know?

Proverbs 27:18 and 23-27 | Philippians 4:15-19

In this, the final study in this series on financial stewardship, we will see how to continue tracking expenses and we'll be encouraged through Scripture to continue regularly using our Spending Plan.

Proverbs is a great book of wisdom, and on the topic of financial faithfulness, the writer reveals solid principles of managing wealth and taking care of our possessions. In addition, the apostle Paul in Philippians shares with readers who it is that will meet our needs.

What's the Big Idea?

We need to carefully plan our financial “house” and clearly know where we stand with our Spending Plan. This is a large part of how we become financially free, which results in peace of mind, both now and in the future. Now is a good time to begin carrying out healthy lifetime habits in this very important area.

What's the Problem?

God calls us to be wise stewards; however, without careful planning, our income, expenses, debt, savings, giving can get out of balance. Many people have no idea where they stand with their money. This can lead to undesired surprises in the future with hardship and difficulties to follow.

Planning for Financial Faithfulness

What Are the Questions?

Launch

1. What can happen when we do not track our income and expenses?
2. What might be some advantages of knowing where all your money is being utilized?

Explore

Read out loud together: Proverbs 27:18, 23-27

The Proverbs provide basic advice for wise living in practical daily work; in fact, Solomon wrote them to teach young people how to live wisely. As background, in the time Solomon lived, most people’s income came from farming or raising livestock. From the passage, think how the principles apply to us in our present world.

3. Looking at Proverbs 27:18. What do you observe as the “cause and effect” factors in this verse? In what ways do you think this verse speaks to us today?
4. Now look at 27:23-27. If you were a farmer or cattle rancher, what advice do you find here that would be valuable in providing for a family?

List as many pieces of advice as you can as a group.

5. What would happen as a farmer/rancher, if you did not pay attention to or give proper care to your fields, animals and family?
6. What impact does this passage have on your attitudes and behavior? As you consider your current situation, what are practical ways you can apply the truths of this passage?

Read aloud together: Philippians 4:15-19

Keep in mind that the Apostle Paul endured incredible hardships as seen in 2 Corinthians 11:23-28. (If you have time, read this out loud.) Paul went through imprisonments, repeated beatings, and was even left for dead after an attempted execution with stones. He almost died at sea, was severely threatened by his enemies, was exposed to the elements, spent sleepless nights, went hungry and thirsty, suffered exposure to cold and great emotional pressure from his concern for all the churches to which he ministered. So Paul is making a big statement in Philippians 4:19

7. What is the main promise in this verse? Why do you think Paul was able to make this bold statement?

Apply

8. How do Proverbs 27:18, 23-27 and Philippians 4:19 fit together?
9. What do you sense God is nudging you to apply from the principles in these verses? Take the time to be specific and personal.
10. Google “Dave Ramsey’s Envelope System.” Consider using the envelope/online payments system, which we highly recommend. Dave Ramsey describes how to use it on this site. Take the time to make changes to your spending plan from last week and decide what tracking system you will use.

What’s Our Response?

Overall, we should work hard in our present job and/or at preparing for our future job. This will allow God to provide for our needs financially as we follow the principles in His Word.

This series is only the first step. We highly encourage you to take the Financial Peace University course with Dave Ramsey, often available at a local church; check FPU.com for locations. This will give you a more thorough teaching of the topic, both biblically and practically.

NOTES:

Planning for Financial Faithfulness

What Are the Answers?

1. As group members answer this question honestly the leader can discover people's level of seriousness about tracking their expenses.
2. Knowing where our money is being spent safeguards us from getting into trouble with debt, materialism and overspending. We do not want to keep spending when we have not planned ahead of time how we will pay for it.
3. Taking care of our resources and being a truly worthy employee, will lead to being rewarded (providing for us and our family). Taking this parable a little further, we should work with excellence at our job and/or studies, not following the pattern of those we work with who may not have a good work ethic.
4. As a farmer or a rancher we would need to be sure to know how all the animals in our care are doing, because they are our main form of income. We need to do all we can to preserve and protect our income. Let the group continue listing their ideas.
5. Simply stated, we would lose our income and be in great need. Let the group explore this as deeply as they want.
6. Let the group members discuss their particular circumstances. One idea would be to regularly assess our studies, major and/or job as well as every category in our budget.
7. We have the assurance that even in the midst of disaster, sickness or financial reversals, God will supply our needs. (See also Matthew 6:33.) As a missionary, Paul experienced great need and regularly saw that need supplied by God. Looking at 2 Corinthians 11:23-28, we can see that Paul has credibility when he says that God will supply all our needs in Christ Jesus.
8. Share with each other the idea that our part is to be mindful of our money and our work. As we do our best to honor God, He promises to meet our needs. Feel free to expand on this.
9. Make personal application here, then share in the group.
10. Choose a tracking system and revise your spending plan.

Memorize

19 And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:19 (ESV®)



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