

Preparation for Marriage Manual

Part 11 – Finance in the Marriage Partnership

Money! Your attitude towards money in your past lifestyle may have to be adjusted when you prepare for and enter the marriage relationship.

Financial disruption and difficulties can place a great strain upon a marriage relationship.

The next few exercises have been designed to help you determine what is important in terms of finance in marriage and help you and your future partner make some realistic plans.

First, let us see how aware you are of what items cost today.

Secret thoughts of a husband:

“I just cannot understand why my wife is always short of money. Now if I took over the household budget, things would be more efficient and there would be money to spare.”

The wife broods:

“I don’t know why my husband says he cannot take me out more often. His expenses aren’t that high.”

Do you confess to thinking like that occasionally?

Here is your chance to show how much you do know about day-to-day money problems that your future partner will face.

Future **husband** – please indicate how much you believe the following items will cost:

A 2Kg turkey	A large box of detergent
A 1Kg bag of potatoes	A broom
A chocolate cake mix	A set of six water glasses
A week’s supply of milk for three	A pair of pantyhose
A girl’s blouse	A 3-piece polyester suit
A woman’s swimming costume	A hair perm
A pair of children’s shoes	A nylon lace slip
	3 ½metres of dress fabric
	A pair of dacron curtains

Now **wife** – to be indicated how much you believe the following items and services will cost:

A litre of motor oil	A haircut including tip
A litre of brake fluid	The home heating bill for the year
A set of shock absorbers	The council tax for year
A pair of motor tyres	Life Insurance premiums
Fertiliser to cover lawn	An “off the rack” suit
A set of 4 screwdrivers	A man’s raincoat
An adjustable wrench	A medium price pair of shoes
A gallon of gloss paint	A wash-and-wear shirt
A dinner for four at a good restaurant	
Two tickets for a football match	

Score three points for each correct answer and one point if you come within 10% of the correct answer. Compare scores but the idea is mainly to show how well you understand your future partner’s side of spending.

This quiz will teach both future partners a lesson – not to complain about your future partner’s spending until you know what you are talking about.

If you are still living at home, offer to prepare and purchase the goods and groceries for the week with your future partner. You may be in for a few surprises!

Study the following passages of scripture from God’s Handbook For Life, the Christian Bible, and discover how to acquire, regard and spend money. Indicate the principles that you derive from each passage.

Deuteronomy 8:17-18

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1 Chronicles 29:11-12

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Proverbs 11:24-25

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Proverbs 11:28

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Proverbs 12:10

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Proverbs 13:11

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Proverbs 14:23

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Proverbs 13:18, 22

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Proverbs 15:6

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Proverbs 15:16-17, 22

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Proverbs 15:27

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Proverbs 16:8

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Proverbs 16:16

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Proverbs 20:4, 14, 18

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Proverbs 21:5-6

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Proverbs 21:20, 25-26

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Proverbs 22:1, 4, 7

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Proverbs 23:1-5

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Proverbs 24:30-34

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Proverbs 27:23-24

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Proverbs 28:6, 22

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Proverbs 30:24-25

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Ecclesiastes 5:10

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Ecclesiastes 5:19

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Matthew 6:19-20

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Matthew 17:24-27

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Luke 6:27-38

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Luke 12:13-21

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Romans 13:6-8

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Ephesians 4:28

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Philippians 4:11-19

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2 Thessalonians 3:7-12

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1 Timothy 6:6-10

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1 Timothy 6:17-19

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Hebrews 13:5

The Dos and Don'ts of Family Budgeting

Do have a family budget.

Do plan that budget together.

Make a date to plan the future family budget and do **not** quit until there is agreement and co-operation.

Write down the budget stating what each income will be allocated for each partner to be responsible for spending that part.

Define your financial goals.

Launch your budget with a clear idea of why you are trying to budget.

Devote several weeks to keep a detailed expense record for use in the combined working on one common budget.

Only if you do know where your personal money is going at the moment can you decide how the money should be spent when you are a married couple.

List all your purchases under one of the two headings.

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Include in your budget plan big non-recurring expenses during the full year. For example insurance, holidays, etc. put aside each month, enough to meet these expenses when they come due.

Always include a savings amount to cover any unseen emergency, [an emergency must be a situation accepted by all the family], know who is in charge of what part of the spending within the general budget but do **not** demand detailed accounts and summaries.

Do **not** intermingle funds. Have a clear-cut division of the total family income.

Do **not** cheat your budget.

A good rule is to re-evaluate your total budget every January and July to make sure it is realistic and working for the benefit of all the family.

Do **not** quit budgeting the first time it goes wrong.

Budgets seldom “*click*” the first time round, so hang on, start revising before it goes really wrong and make a fresh start.

Insure that inserted into your budget is an amount designated “*marriage enrichment*”. This can be used for books to read together on the subject, CDs to listen to, second honeymoon weekends, marriage enrichment retreats, etc.

Building such quality into married life has to be planned, it doesn't just happen.

Budget Planning and Adjusting Layout Forms

<p>Gross Income Per Month</p> <p> Salary</p> <p> Interest</p> <p> Dividends</p> <p> Other</p> <p>Less:</p> <p>1 Tithe</p> <p>2 Tax</p> <p> Net Spendable Income <u>.....</u></p> <p>3 Housing</p> <p> Mortgage (rent)</p> <p> Insurance</p> <p> Council Tax</p> <p> Electricity</p> <p> Gas</p> <p> Water</p> <p> Sanitation</p> <p> Telephone</p> <p> Maintenance</p> <p> Other</p> <p>4 Food</p> <p>5 Automobile(s)</p> <p> Payments</p> <p> Fuel & Oil</p> <p> Insurance</p> <p> License/Taxes</p> <p> Maint/Repair/ Replace</p> <p>6 Insurance</p> <p> Life</p> <p> Medical</p> <p> Other</p> <p>7 Debts</p> <p> Credit Card</p> <p> Loans</p> <p> Other</p>	<p>8 Entertainment & Recreation</p> <p> Eating Out</p> <p> Baby Sitters</p> <p> Activities/Trips</p> <p> Vacation</p> <p> Other</p> <p>9 Clothing</p> <p>10 Savings (Emergency Fund)</p> <p>11 Medical Expenses</p> <p> Doctor</p> <p> Dentist</p> <p> Drugs</p> <p> Other</p> <p>12 Miscellaneous</p> <p> Toiletries, Cosmetics</p> <p> Beauty, Barber</p> <p> Laundry, Cleaning</p> <p> Allowances, Lunches</p> <p> Subscriptions</p> <p> Gifts (incl. Christmas)</p> <p> Cash</p> <p> Other</p> <p>13 School/Child Care</p> <p> Tuition</p> <p> Materials</p> <p> Transportation</p> <p> Day Care</p> <p>14 Investments</p> <p> Total Expenses <u>.....</u></p> <p>Income vs Expenses</p> <p> Net Spendable Income</p> <p> Less Expenses</p>
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Budget Adjustment Guide

Net Disposable Income per month £

Monthly Category	Approx. % Allocation	Guideline Allocation	Personal Budget	Difference	New Budget
		£	£	£	£
Net Disposable Income per Month					
1 Rent/Mortgage	%				
Utilities					
Council Tax					
Maintenance					
2 Housing Total	%				
3 Food	%				
Car Payment					
Tax/Insurance					
Fuel/Maint.					
Fares					
4 Transport Total	%				
5 Holiday	%				
6 Ins./Pension	%				
7 Debts	%				
8 Clothing	%				
9 Savings	%				
10 Med./Dental	%				
11 Ent./Rec.	%				
12 Misc.	%				
TOTALS	100 %				