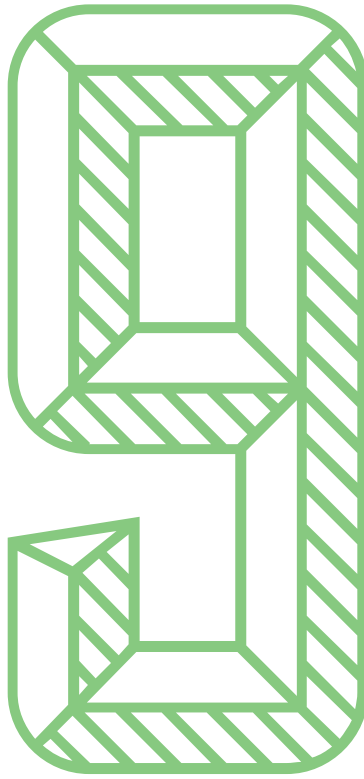


S E S S I O N



MARGIN



FINANCIAL PLANNING IS . . .

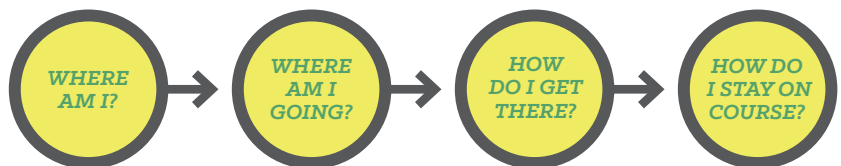
- *NOT an economic philosophy*
- *NOT a stock market tip*
- *NOT an investment strategy or product*
- *NOT more insurance coverage*
- *NOT more stocks or mutual funds or IRA's*
- *NOT a get-rich-quick scheme*
- *NOT playing the lottery*
- *NOT E.F. Hutton, Charles Schwab, or T.D. Waterhouse*

FINANCIAL PLANNING IS . . .

The allocation of limited ⁽⁷³⁾ _____ to unlimited ⁽⁷⁴⁾ _____

Godly Financial Planning is . . .

- *Setting goals – Godly goals!*
- *Establishing priorities – allocating wisely*
- *Living a disciplined, purposeful lifestyle*



WHO NEEDS A FINANCIAL PLAN?

For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money. After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them.

So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.' His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' He also who had received two talents came and said, 'Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.' His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.'

But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents.'

For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' - **Matthew 25:14-30**

Lessons from the Parable

Who needs to plan? Who needs to budget? ⁽⁷⁵⁾ _____

Will we someday have to give an accounting? ⁽⁷⁶⁾ _____

Does this accounting have any significance in eternity? ⁽⁷⁷⁾ _____

Does the amount given to steward make a difference? ⁽⁷⁸⁾ _____

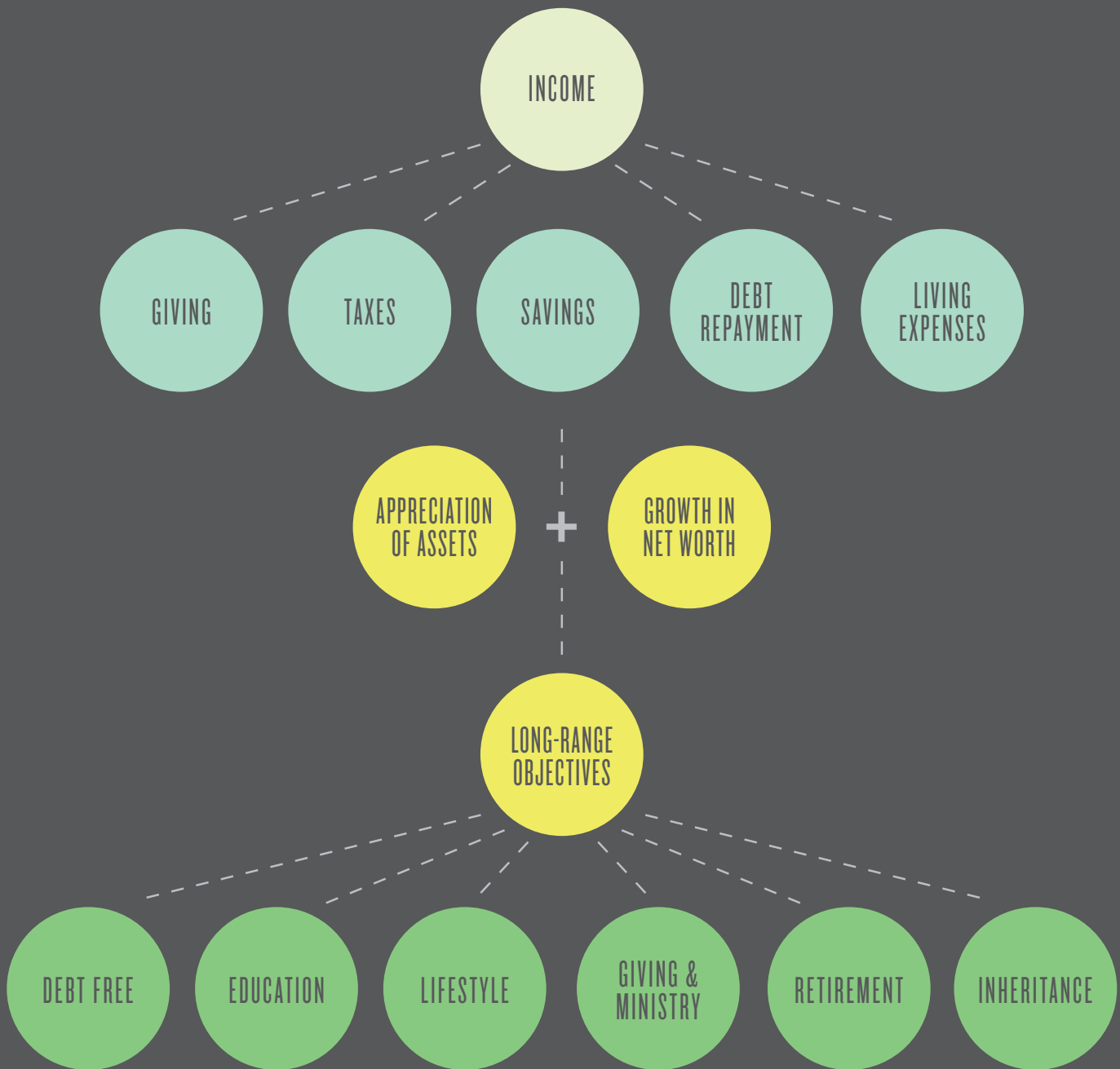
Invest, don't Manage!

BASICS OF BUDGETING

What is the primary practical obstacle to following Godly priorities?

Lack of ⁽⁷⁹⁾ _____ !

PLANNING ROADMAP



KEY IMPLICATIONS

There are no _____ financial decisions.

- Every spending decision in one area affects every other area
- A dollar spent in lifestyle is gone forever!

There is a lifetime nature to financial decisions.

- Anytime money is used to consume, it is gone forever and can never be used for anything in the future

We make better decisions when we adopt a long-term perspective

- Financial maturity is choosing to give up today's desires for future benefits
- This works in every significant area of your life – career, family, marriage, and money
- Finances Honor the Farmer!

But if anyone does not **provide** for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

- 1 Timothy 5:8



BUDGETING

Budgeting is planning for the wise use of what God has entrusted to your supervision

- A budget is necessary to help get you back on track
- A budget is necessary to keep you on track

What is a budget?

- A spending plan
- A series of boundaries or guardrails
- A tool to help YOU reach YOUR goals

What are the benefits of budgeting?

- Enables you to reduce waste and save for the future – you experience security
- Enables you to plan for “emergencies” – you experience freedom
- Enables you to plan and work as a team – you grow together!

Who needs a budget? ⁽⁸¹⁾ _____

Through wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established; by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches. - Proverbs 24:3-4

CAN YOU NAME ONE GOOD REASON WHY YOU DON'T HAVE A BUDGET RIGHT NOW?

GETTING PRACTICAL

You can download an electronic budget spreadsheet at www.rockfinanciallife.com (under Resources)finance/

Usage Notes

1. In this spreadsheet, there are entry places to record your budget or planned amounts, and entry places to record your actual income and spending amounts.

2. The categories shown are the most frequently used categories. However, you can customize any category by modifying the title on the January tab. The new name will appear in each subsequent monthly tab.

3. Below each major category such as Donations, Housing, or Transportation, you'll see a Target = percentage. This percentage is a goal or guideline that the category should consume from your total income. The targets are NOT rules – remember – this is your plan!

4. If you prefer, you can use a smart phone app such as Mint.com, or software package such as Quicken. You can even use a legal pad of paper. The point is to find a tool that works for you, and for you to put the tool to work!

GETTING STARTED

In all cases, enter MONTHLY amounts. If you pay an expense once a year, such as auto registration, take the annual number and divide by twelve to get the average monthly expense.

Step 1 – Enter all monthly income sources

- Use Net Income amounts
- Remember to calculate true monthly numbers. If you get paid every two weeks, multiply your basic take home by 26, then divide by 12 to get a monthly amount.

Step 2 – Choose a giving percentage

- We'll address the topic of giving in detail in a subsequent session, but for now simply pick a percentage. We recommend 10%.

Step 3 – Choose a savings percentage

- We recommend 10%. Note that if you are already saving through a payroll 401K plan or something similar, you can leave this blank.

Step 4 – Enter your known fixed expenses

- Mortgage or rent
- Car Loan/Lease
- Insurance (Auto, Life, Health)
- Utilities (average amounts)
- Debt Payments (Credit Cards, Student Loans, etc.)

Step 5 – Include actual spending amounts you've been tracking *(Session 5!)*

- Food
- Gasoline
- Entertainment

Step 6 – Include all others

- Vacation
- Gifts
- Miscellaneous

Step 7 – Do the math! *If you're using the spreadsheet, the numbers will add up automatically!*

- If the amount in the Budget Balance cell (top right) is positive, then celebrate!
- If the amount in the Budget Balance cell (top right) is negative, then it's time to start finding ways to reduce your spending.

PRAGMATIC THREE

Create a
Cash-Positive
Budget

CASH POSITIVE OPTIONS

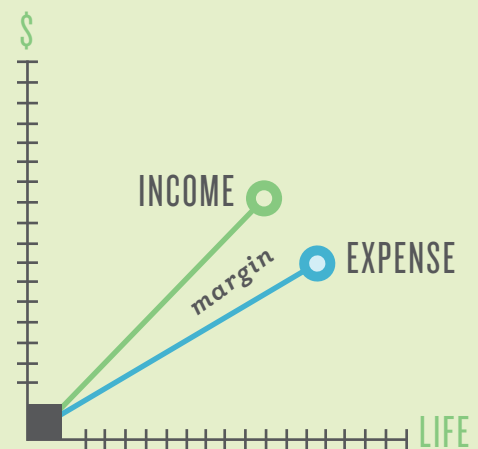
If your initial Budget Balance is less than zero, you must lower your expenses and/or raise your income. It's not any more complicated than that.



TYPICAL MARGIN STEALERS

Remember, the goal is to create margin! Here are the most obvious places to look for reducing expenses:

- *Coffee Shops*
- *Lack of Meal Planning*
- *Fast-Food Habits*
- *Entertainment / Vacations*
- *Premium Clothing Labels*
- *Gift Giving*



BUDGET TARGETS

The following chart shows the current national averages for the core spending categories, as well as recommended targets. Note that these are recommendations only. They are NOT rules!

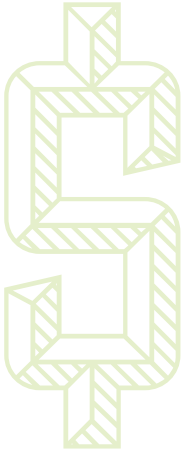
	NATIONAL AVERAGE	RECOMMENDED TARGET
Giving	3%	10%
Saving	1%	10%
Taxes	20%	20%
Debt	16%	0%
Housing	35%	35%
Lifestyle	25%	25%

Get Started Today!

If you don't have a budget,
it will take time to create one. RELAX!
If the numbers don't work, RELAX.
BUT, be

(32) _____ !

SESSION 9 BIG IDEAS



Budgeting is not a dirty word. It's not a pair of handcuffs. A realistic and achievable budget is incredibly liberating. Knowing that your income will support your spending plans helps you experience security and peace of mind. The challenge is getting good information from your daily tracking, making choices to reduce or eliminate expenses, and exercising discipline and restraint. YOU CAN DO IT!

• **PRACTICE THREE** – *Create a Cash-Positive Budget!*

1. *What do you think your financial rewards will be for creating (and living on!) a cash positive budget?*

2. *What do you think your emotional rewards will be?*

3. *If you've never budgeted before, who will you ask for help?*

GOTO: WWW.ROCKFINANCIALLIFE.COM
CLICK ON: [CONTACT ROCK FINANCIAL LIFE](#)

GOD'S GIFT OF CONTENTMENT

For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. - James 3:16

Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things. - Philippians 4:8

- The Comparison Trap
 - You should drive what the Jones' drive
 - You should wear what the Jones' wear
 - You should live where the Jones' live
 - Comparing is a focus on image and stuff
 - Comparing is a form of idol worship
- Enemy's Tactics
 - Feed you a lie dressed up as truth
 - Seduce you into aggressively defending the lie
 - Deceive you into believing a 'want' is a 'need'

PRAY TO EXPERIENCE CONTENTMENT

Heavenly Father, forgive me for falling into the trap of comparison. Forgive me for the sin of envy and covetousness.

Jesus, thank You for paying the price for my sin.

Holy Spirit, I will take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ. I will stop thinking about the Jones'. I repent of living in the cesspool of comparison. I ask You to free me from the bondage of comparison. I will meditate only on things that are praiseworthy. Teach me how to lay hold on eternal life, moment by moment. Thank You for a heart of contentment in all things, and in all situations.

In Jesus' Name.