

Session 8

MONEY

Getting Ready

Here's what you'll talk about:

- money personalities
- budgets
- treasures in this life and the next

Survey Says...

Take a quick look at the Financial Management section of your Couple Checkup report. Notice whether this is a “strength” or “growth” area in your relationship.

Selfie

Taking a Snapshot of Where You Are Right Now

Time for a survey, preferably to be completed in three minutes or less. Go with “first reactions” as much as possible. The point isn't to come up with “right” answers, but to start thinking about where you stand on some of the issues addressed in this session. You and

your spouse-to-be should fill in your answers separately so that you can compare and discuss them later.

1. How would you feel if you heard the following? What would be your likely response?

- From your credit card company: “Your balance owed is \$7,860.”
- From your spouse: “We need to come up with a budget.”
- From your neighbor: “How’s that old car of yours holdin’ up?”
- From the Bible: “For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils” 1 Timothy 6:10.

- From your child: “Why can’t we go to Disneyland like everybody else?”
2. How can you tell whether you have enough money? How does your answer compare with your future spouse’s?
 3. Which of the following seems to be most like you when it comes to money? How?
 - The Kardashians
 - Bill Gates
 - Ebenezer Scrooge
 - Dave Ramsey
 - Pope Francis
 - Santa Claus
 - Robin Hood
 4. If your annual household income were \$30,000, how much would you budget per month on each of the following? How do your answers compare with those of your spouse-to-be?
 - car repairs _____
 - eating in restaurants _____

- clothing _____
- savings _____
- lottery tickets _____
- hobbies _____

5. How do you think married couples should settle arguments about money? Why?

WeTube

Getting the Most from the Video

After watching the Session 8 video on the DVD, discuss the following questions:

1. Read Matthew 6:19–24. If Visa, MasterCard, or Discover offered a card design that reflected what Jesus said here about money, what might it look like?

2. Imagine that you have \$10 for a “spending spree” in a dollar store. Your goal is to spend it on items you think are most valuable. What would you buy? What do you think your spouse-to-be would buy? Why? If you had to agree on your \$10 purchases, how would you make your decisions?
3. Which of the couples in this video remind you most of yourselves when it comes to money? Which remind you most of your parents? In three words, how would you sum up the way your childhood experiences with money influenced you?
4. If it's true that money is the number-one issue that couples argue about, why don't they seem to argue about it more in public? How private do you think money matters should be? Why?
5. Dr. Greg Smalley has said that the “hot button” issue of money can be intimidating, even scary. Why is that? What could make it less scary for you?
6. Scott and Bethany Palmer admit they've had their share of disagreements about money. Does that make you more likely or less likely to take their advice seriously? Why?

7. Which of the following underlying money issues do you think the two of you might encounter in the first year of your marriage? How could you start dealing with this before the wedding?
 - feeling controlled or oppressed by your spouse
 - unfairness (“you’re spending money and I can’t”)
 - insecurity (“we won’t have enough”)
 - feeling blocked or hindered (“you don’t follow our budget”)

8. At which of the following times are you most vulnerable to spending more than you ought to? How could your spouse-to-be help you at those times?
 - when you’re hungry
 - when you’re depressed
 - when you want to impress someone
 - when you’re angry
 - when you’re celebrating something
 - other _____

9. Read 1 Corinthians 13:4–7. Pick three of the things the apostle Paul says about love. How could a husband and wife demonstrate these in the way they handle money?

10. Where do you think the two of you will turn most often for financial advice when you’re married? Why?

Application)

Taking Things Personally

It's time for an Action Step.

Here are four ideas you could use to follow through on what you've talked about. Can you pick one and carry it out before your next meeting?

1. Work together to plan a 25th wedding anniversary vacation, explaining how you'll make sure you have the money for it 25 years from now.
2. Browse the website of a furniture store or look through Pinterest. Set an imaginary (yet realistic) budget and decide how you'd furnish your living room next year. Stick closely to the budget.
3. As Mary Hunt recommends in the video, get your credit reports, show them to each other, and discuss how they might affect your financial plans.
4. Read "Do We Have to Have a Budget?" in the back of this book. Then use it to take a stab at creating your first-year budget.

Face The Book

Going Deeper with Ready to Wed

To learn more about—and apply—the principles you've just discussed, please read the following in the *Ready to Wed* book during the week:

Chapter 12, "Our Money Relationship," by Scott and Bethany Palmer

You'll also want to discover your "money personalities" by taking the online Money Personality Assessment mentioned in Chapter 12. If possible, bring the results to the next session.