**MINISTERIAL SPOUSES’ CURRICULUM GUIDE: LECTURES**

Gloria Lindsey Trotman, PhD

**Lesson 12**

**Money Management in Marriage**

One of the greatest challenges in the family is related to finances. There is either the need for more money, or the need to learn how to handle money successfully. A tutorial on money management is always useful. We do not automatically know how to be good stewards of what God has given us. We should be intentional about learning the skills of money management.

1. The Money Challenge **Slides #2 & 3**
2. Financial problems. These are a threat to marriage and a major cause of divorce.
3. The inability to handle money. The success of many marriages rises or falls on the ability of the couple to handle money.
4. Obsession with money. It is OK to have or to want money. Eccl.7:12. What is **not OK** isbecoming obsessed with money. 1 Tim. 6:10. “For the **love** of money is the root of all evil . . .” Some persons are driven with the urge to secure more and more money, even at the expense of their health and their families.
5. The Bible on Money. **Slides #4 - 7**
6. God gives the ability to get wealth. Deut. 8:18. This ought to remind us of our dependence on God. We need to shun the tendency to feel that we have the power to thrive and succeed. “All things come of God.”
7. One who trusts solely in riches would fail. Prov. 11:28. Nothing material is lasting. Riches are just temporary.
8. Money must not be the primary or only goal. The Bible teaches us to seek God first. He is to be our primary goal.
9. Get wisdom and knowledge. Prov. 16:16; 8:10, 11. There are things that are more valuable than money. Get them.
10. Get a good name. Prov. 22:1. This is of more value than money.
11. Do not wear yourself out to get riches. Prov. 23:4. Do not be a slave to wealth.
12. God owns everything. Ps. 24:1; Hag. 2:8. Put Him first.
13. We are God’s stewards and are accountable to Him for all that we receive. Gen. 1:26; Matt. 25:14 ff. This is a very important principle. As Christians, we must remember to be good stewards.
14. Some Principles to Ponder **Slides #8 - 11**

1. Each family should have a financial plan (budget) that should be carefully followed. Unplanned, random spending will lead to disaster.

2. Teach the children the value of money. Teach them to take care of their possessions because they cost money. Teach them to give money to God first (tithing), to save, and to consider those who are less fortunate.

3. Plan for debt-free living. This is a good goal to aim for.

1. Consider the benefits of home ownership. Plan early to purchase your own home. Consult an expert for guidance in home purchasing.
2. The making of a will should be a priority. Couples should consider this. Many persons are afraid to talk about a will. Talk to your lawyer about a will. It will be good information for you.
3. Explore money-saving ideas. (Coupons, sales, discount days, etc.)
4. Have a regular savings plan. Treat this as compulsory.
5. Keep good records.
6. Be a generous, giving family. “If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food and one of you says to them, ‘Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,’ but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit.?” James 2:15 (NKJV). Practice to be charitable. Pick a charity for your family to support.
7. Components of a good budget **Slides #12 - 18**

**INCOME**

Husband’s $\_\_\_\_\_

 Wife’s $\_\_\_\_\_

 Other $\_\_\_\_\_

 ***TOTAL $\_\_\_\_\_***

**FIXED EXPENSES**

 **Tithe $\_\_\_\_\_**

 **(10% of gross)**

 Other offerings $\_\_\_\_\_

 Taxes $\_\_\_\_\_

 Social Security $\_\_\_\_\_

 Other $\_\_\_\_\_

 ***TOTAL $\_\_\_\_\_***

**REGULAR EXPENSES**

Savings $\_\_\_\_\_

 Debts and reserves $\_\_\_\_\_

Rent/mortgage $\_\_\_\_\_

 Food $\_\_\_\_\_

 Insurance $\_\_\_\_\_

 Tuition $\_\_\_\_\_

Electricity $\_\_\_\_\_

 Water $\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone $\_\_\_\_\_

 Home maintenance $\_\_\_\_\_

 Transportation $\_\_\_\_\_

 Medical $\_\_\_\_\_

 Credit card pmt. $\_\_\_\_\_

Cooking gas $\_\_\_\_\_

 Wardrobe $\_\_\_\_\_

 Child care $\_\_\_\_\_

 Husband’s allowance $\_\_\_\_\_

 Wife’s allowance $\_\_\_\_\_

 Children’s allowance $\_\_\_\_\_

 Recreation $\_\_\_\_\_

 Self-improvement $\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Vacation $\_\_\_\_\_

 Other $\_\_\_\_\_

 Miscellaneous $\_\_\_\_\_

 ***Total regular expenses $\_\_\_\_\_\_***

From

 TOTAL INCOME $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Subtract

 TOTAL EXPENSES $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 ***Surplus or debit $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***

**CONCLUSION Slide #19**

God can give us the wisdom to manage our finances successfully. James 1:5

Communicate with your family on the value and use of the money that God has given you.