

PARENT/STUDENT FINANCES GUIDE

10th Grade Conversation

OBJECTIVE

This is a great opportunity to have a conversation about the 90 percent God has called us to live on after our tithe. How are we managing that? Go over a mock budget together. Have your teen keep a log of how they spend their money for a month, and then go out for breakfast or lunch and have a conversation on being a wise steward of the 90 percent.

THE 411

In many ways, teens today don't have a biblical concept of how God views money. A teen's concept is receiving money and then spending money. In many ways that is what our culture teaches us — we have been trained to be consumers. We have been told from an early age that we don't have enough possessions, and the next gadget or outfit will make us happier. This is a great opportunity to talk about how God has called us to be wise stewards of the 90 percent we live on after tithing.

SUGGESTION

One night at the kitchen table share with your teen that you would like to talk about finances and being a wise steward. Together you will need to come up with a mock budget. Come up with an annual income. After that income, tithe 10 percent to the church and talk about how that needs to be the first thing we do. Then together go through bills that have to be paid each month. This will show how income looks like a lot of money for a year, but is dwindled down with bills. Some bills are based on wants and not needs. That can be discussed as well. If your teen has a job and is earning money, this could be a mock budget with the bills that have to be paid. If they do not have a job and are not earning anything yet, this could be a mock budget you create together. After you go through the budget, there will be a portion left over. Talk about living wisely on what is left. Are they saving for something with what is left? How is that being spent?

You will need to buy them a log to keep or a phone app to track how they spend money for a month. After one month, get together and talk about how they spent the money. Use this discussion below to guide the conversation and mock budget.

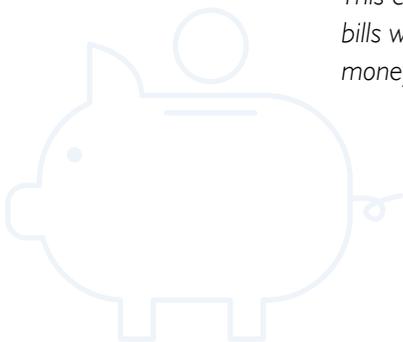
DISCUSSION

at the kitchen table

SAY SOMETHING LIKE:

When you receive your money, first tithe, and then God calls us to live on the 90 percent that's left. Now when you get older, you will have bills to pay and other responsibilities.

This could be a great time to go over a mock budget. Before this, come up with a mock income and bills where your teen has to organize how they manage the income. How would they manage the money that is left? See Suggestion.



Point out again that tithing is hard, but we must be disciplined in this. Have your teen keep an envelope or some other type of container to collect the tithe, then on the first weekend of each month turn the tithe in.

Remind them that God calls us to tithe, but that in many ways He is more concerned with how we manage the 90 percent that is left. Will they manage it wisely or foolishly?

READ: **Matthew 6:21 (NIV)**

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

ASK: What does that mean where our treasure is, our heart will be?

(What we treasure is a direct representation of what we value most. So a great representation of our heart is what our checkbook and bank statements say. Help your teen understand that what we spend our money on is a sign of our heart and whether we are choosing to live generously or selfishly.)

Encourage your teen to ask these two questions before spending money on something:

1. Do I **NEED** this?
2. Can I **LIVE** without it?

By asking these two questions, it puts things into perspective and helps us be wise stewards of our money. (That doesn't mean you can't enjoy life and spend some money on yourself. It just means that we must be wise and not let material things control our lives and impact our hearts.)

GAME PLAN: Come up with a game plan to have your teen keep a budget and to track a log for the next month on how they spend money. I'm sure there is an app for that! Then go out for breakfast or lunch and talk about the budget and spending log they have kept after that month.

