

managing GOD'S money

A SINGLE PARENT (I REFER TO MOM IN THIS DOCUMENT) SHOULD TRAIN CHILDREN TO ASSUME GREATER HOME RESPONSIBILITY AND TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FAMILY COUNCIL



The Single Parent

Likely, mom alone will handle home and children events, so her greatest challenge might be learning to set priorities and to practice *selective neglect*. Daily, she must learn to choose what to do and what not to do. Most of all, she must provide the emotional security the children need, and model biblical attitudes and behaviour to the children.

When moms say they can't neglect specific matters, I ask this question: Suppose you died, who would do those urgent tasks?

How can a mom devote time to handle financial affairs well? Indeed, she might find it difficult to fund all her needs! How does a Family Council function for her?



Older Children Are Leaders

Mom should train older children to assume leadership roles, but not to become "early adults!" Chores might be more than in a two parent families, but not excessive and oppressive!

* Singles and The Family Council *

It's an understatement to say a single parent's task is difficult. After all, this isn't God's design! Usually, besides mom's full-time challenging home management job, she works full-time at another job. Dad could be the single parent, with same effects.

For a lone parent, the *Family Council* (www.managinggodsmoney.com/media/Spendingplan09.pdf) would consist of the parent and children. To help communicate family matters and to hear about school and children's non-private social life (school outings, birthday parties, baby-sitting), it might need to meet even more often than weekly. As with the two-parent family, don't use the Council to discuss private matters affecting a child. Set aside one-on-one time with each child. Mom should follow the same couples guidelines for the Council, except, she might shorten the agenda and the time for each session. It's essential mom sets clear spending plans' guidelines for events and stuff



like school field trips, birthday parties, movies, video games, and other peer-driven spending that might arise unexpectedly. Mom should explain to younger children how their behaviour might affect the household budget. The same should happen in a two-parent family, but I stress it here because it causes greater friction in one-parent families. Mom should ask a trusted Christian female friend to hold her accountable to hold regular Council meetings. For singles and single parents, perhaps the greatest need pertaining to the Family Council is this: Getting a trusting same gender person to share ideas, to encourage, be encouraged, to support and be supported, and to set the right accountability level! Ask God to lead you to that person. Depending on the relationship, in addition to accountability meetings, you might wish to meet to discuss mutual issues and potential solutions affecting household finances and related matters.

As soon as feasible, mom should let each child control his and her spending plans.

Spending plan overview: [Fall 2009 Quarterly Letter](#)

