

52 Money Saving Ideas



Your Role

1. **Accept** your role as manager of God's money and possessions, and decide to live within your income
2. **Seek** Jesus' direction before spending: Let Him show you how to handle 100% of funds you get. Don't give Him 10% and then try to handle 90%. One hundred percent is His!
3. **Know** the **3-M's** of *Money transactions*—The **M**erchant, **M**oney and **M**e: The *Merchant* produces goods and services then entices *Me* to exchange *Money* for them. I can manage only *Me*—my **a**ttitude, **b**ehaviour and **c**hoices—not *Money* or the *Merchant*

Good Habits

4. **Be thankful;** set your expenses below today's income for at least two years. Ask God to show you how to distribute to His Kingdom excess income you get during that time
5. **Be accountable** to someone you can trust
6. **Be aware;** know your vulnerable areas. Plug leaking expenses
7. **Be patient;** don't spend impulsively. When the urge comes, wait at least 24 hours; seek God's direction
8. **Be wise;** get yearly physical and financial check ups. Do a yearly *spending fast*
9. **Be informed** about alternative funding sources for your children's post secondary education: save from funds you get for them, from funds available from Government incentives
10. **Be thrifty;** comparison shop for "big ticket" items. When salespeople pressure you, pray, wait up to one week and answer this question: Will buying this item satisfy a fleeting want or a longer term need?
11. **Beware;** don't sign agreements unless you read and understand your obligations — usually the *small print* lowers benefits the *large print* promotes
12. **Avoid erratic spending;** save to buy all items. For a home, save a deposit that results in an *affordable* mortgage
13. **Apply biblical teachings;** start a *Family Council* to learn and teach your children good attitudes, to monitor household spending, to model these attitudes to your family
14. Resist the temptation to buy junk food as you "shop"; eat before you shop so you are "full"—shop always with a *money map*
15. Borrow books and movies from public and church libraries; start a book club
16. Write gift cards, give gifts using yours and your family's talents
17. Don't give to TV evangelists and others who manipulate you, focus on you, them, their ministries, rather than on Jesus. Give only after prayer
18. Don't buy brand name items only; shop wisely at no frills and similar stores
19. Don't act solely on savings tips or financial incentives from *merchants*; they want you to spend! You benefit from a sale and incentive if you need the item, it is at or less than the price you budget, and you can pay cash
20. Learn to recognize and deal with **conflicts of interest** that exists when a financial "adviser" will benefit financially from his or her advice to you
21. Don't pay to use funds in your bank account: stop paying ATM fees

22. Don't spend coins you get in change — save them and at year end ask God where to give amounts saved

Useful Tools

23. Prepare, review, update, follow a financial plan based on goals God gives you. Ask God to show you who should help you prepare and follow the plan
24. Do a budget to help select wants from needs, reduce financial stress, and give you direction in line with the financial plan
25. Prepare, follow a *money map* for spending trips including vacation and trips to the mall
26. Use the **DNA** pre-spending test to separate the need to spend from affordability. Ask three questions: **(1)** Will spending **dishonour** Jesus? **(2)** Do I **need** it? If yes, **(3)** Can I **afford** it?

Credit

27. Pay off credit card and loan balances
28. Stop borrowing: Likely, a bad credit rating resulted from bad choices; don't try to fix the credit rating, understand **the issues with you** and deal with them
29. Don't borrow against your home's equity; your house is not an investment
30. Don't borrow from retirement savings
31. Don't borrow to "upgrade. Replace consumer items when they wear out, not before
32. Don't borrow to invest, go on vacation, or to "spend" to "save" taxes
33. After you eliminate debts except your mortgage, start a *Capital Fund*
34. Ask Jesus to show you where to put interest saved as you reduce debt: Allocation between giving to His work and saving in the *Capital Fund*



Re-Financing

35. Don't change or re-negotiate your financial position — re-finance mortgage, withdraw pension — unless you understand the full effects
36. Don't consolidate loans unless you change your attitude and behaviour to money and spending

House

37. If you don't have a down payment that gives a mortgage you can afford in your monthly budget, you can't afford to own a house; wait!
38. Pay off your mortgage before you start investing— if feasible, regularly pay extra against the principal. But don't reduce giving below amounts God indicates
39. Don't speculate on mortgage interest rates — pray, seek advise about locking-in interest rates. Try to get the ability to pay extra amounts against the mortgage principal

Household

40. Get an energy audit of your home: use a programmable thermostat, lower the setting at specific times, especially at nights; plug leaks in the house
41. If feasible, don't use a dryer in the summer
42. Reduce eating out; pay cash always when you do
43. Buy groceries in bulk; use coupons; focus on unit costs rather than total price — cost for each kg of flour

Transport

44. Plan your vehicle trips: respect the speed limit and use cruise control where safe
45. Maintain your vehicle at regular intervals to prevent expensive break-down repairs

46. If feasible, move where there is good public transport to get you to work so you can function without a car

Insurance

- 47. Don't buy extended warranties for consumer items, save to repair and replace stuff
- 48. Don't buy insurance unless you understand risks the insurance is meant to cover
- 49. Save to raise your car and house "deductibles" as high as affordable

Taxes

- 50. Pay taxes when due. If self employed estimate tax liability, pay installments on time, and save to pay final liability on time
- 51. You spend after tax dollars, understand the effects! Items cost more than you think!
- 52. Get receipts for charitable donations. Depending on your tax liability, you will get back a portion of your donations to registered charities so you can give more!

Glossary

Family Council: Regular family meetings to learn, teach, practice biblical truths about money and life issues

Spending Fast: For a brief period, spending only on stuff morally, ethically, legally needed, and for needed food and medicine

Capital Fund: Special savings to buy for cash items with a life more than two years such as a car

Money Map: Part of the monthly budget to spend on specific trips such as vacation and a "shopping" trip to the mall

This letter is for personal information only. Before implementing financial decisions get independent professional financial advice. Visit www.managinggodsmoney.com for more information and explanations of Family Council, Financial Plan, Budget, Money Map, and Spending Fast.

