

ALTERNATE PRESENTATION OF THE GOOD SENSE BUDGET COURSE SEVEN SESSION FORMAT

The G\$ Movement has received feedback that many churches are opting to offer the Budget Course over a series of weeks as opposed to a one day format. Both formats are possible within the design of the course, based as it is on six sessions. Each session is designed to be presented within a 50-55 minute time frame.

There are pros and cons to each format. A potential benefit of the multiple week presentation is that homework can be given between sessions. Another possible benefit, (unless the weekly time frame is inflexible as in adult Sunday School) is that additional time can be taken with a given topic or for class interaction where deemed helpful.

The following course outline and homework assignments are designed to assist churches that use the multiple week format to capitalize on these advantages. The course has been divided into seven sessions rather than six. This was done primarily by ending Session 1 after the explanation of the five financial areas (page 58 in the Leader's Guide). This was done in response to feedback that Session 1 was the most difficult session to complete within the 55 minute time frame.

A second change involves moving the explanation of the written record keeping system from Session 5 to Session 2. This allows the participants to keep a record of their expenses during subsequent weeks of the course.

The new Outlines of each session are taken directly from the existing Outlines on pages 27, 69, 111 etc. of the Leaders' Guide, modified per the above changes. Naturally the Leader will also need to make appropriate changes in the order of the power point slides. Care should be taken to clearly instruct participants regarding the changes so they can follow in the appropriate pages of the Participants' Guide.

Suggested homework assignments and follow-up questions are also offered for consideration.

**For further information on the Good Sense Ministry
please visit our website at www.GoodSenseMinistry.com**

SESSION I OUTLINE

- I. Introduction and Welcome
Prayer
- II. Discovery
 - A. The Pull of the Culture
 - 1. Video: The Pull of the Culture
 - 2. Group Activity: The Pull of the Culture
 - 3. Course Overview
 - B. The Mind and Heart of God
 - 1. Three Truths
 - 2. Video: The Pearl of Great Price
 - 3. Group Activity: The Pearl of Great Price
 - C. The Pull of the Culture vs. the Mind and Heart of God
 - 1. The Financial Dilemma
 - 2. Five Financial Areas
- III. Closing
 - A. Q and A
 - B. Homework Assignment
 - C. Closing Prayer

SESSION I HOMEWORK

- 1. Pull out the Scripture verses on p. 143/144 in the Participant's Guide and read them before our next class to see how Scripture provides direction for how we handle our financial affairs.
- 2. What would being financially free look like to you?

Possible Discussion or Homework Questions

(PAGE NUMBERS RELATE TO THE BUDGET COURSE LEADER'S GUIDE)

- 1. What are some key decision in your life that have been influenced in part or in whole by money? (p.34)
- 2. Think of the last 2-3 commercials you saw on television and filter their messages down to the least common denominator. What is the main idea of the commercials? Does this main idea agree with The Mind and Heart of God? (p.52)
- 3. When does saving become hoarding? (p.54)
- 4. When you hear the term "budget," what thoughts come into your mind? Was the definition presented in this session consistent with your expectations? (p.60)

SESSION II OUTLINE

- I. Opening Comments
Prayer
 - II. Discovery
 - A. Homework Discussion
 - 1. Biblical Financial Principles Review – p. 143-144 in Participant’s Guide
 - 2. What would being financially free look like to you?
 - B. Review Highlights of Session I
 - C. The Spending Plan (p. 58-64)
 - 1. What is a Spending Plan?
 - 2. The Benefits of a Spending Plan
 - D. Written Record System (modified from p. 234-250, see attached appendix)
 - E. Earning
 - 1. The Pull of the Culture vs. The Mind and Heart of God
 - 2. Practical Tips on Earning
 - 3. Individual Activity: Spending Plan Application
 - III. Closing
 - A. Q and A
 - B. Session Summary
 - C. Homework Assignment
 - D. Closing Prayer
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SESSION II HOMEWORK

1. Starting tomorrow, daily record your variable expenses on the Spending Record on p. 147 in the Participant’s Guide. Mark off each day after all variable expenses have been recorded. Bring this record to each class hereafter.
2. Take note of any “Pull of the Culture” experiences that you have this next week.

Possible Discussion or Homework Questions (PAGE NUMBERS RELATE TO THE BUDGET COURSE LEADER’S GUIDE)

1. George Bernard Shaw, an Irish comic dramatist and literary critic, once said, “Lack of money is the root of all evil.” Does this quote reflect the values of our society? (p.72)
2. Have there been any situations in your job in which income or position/status were equated with human worth/value? (p.74)
3. Think of your most recent gifts – have they fallen within your objectives? Describe our feelings/emotions when you gave. (p.98)
4. How do children act when asked for a birthday list? Are their desires satiated from last year’s presents? (p.102)

SESSION III OUTLINE

- I. Opening Comments
 - Prayer

- II. Discovery
 - A. Homework Discussion
 - 1. Recording variable expenses on Spending Record sheet
 - 2. Share “Pull of the Culture” experience this past week

 - B. Review Highlights of Session II

 - C. Giving
 - 1. Video: The Offering
 - 2. The Pull of the Culture vs. The Mind and Heart of God
 - 3. Individual Activity: The Generous Giver
 - 4. Practical Tips of Giving
 - 5. Individual Activity: Spending Plan Application

 - D. Saving
 - 1. The Pull of the Culture vs. The Mind and Heart of God
 - 2. Group Activity: Your Money Tendency

 - E. Practical Tips on Savings
 - 1. The Benefit of Saving
 - 2. Three Kinds of Saving
 - 3. Individual Activity: Spending Plan Application
 - 4. Prioritizing the Four Uses of Money

- III. Closing
 - A. Q and A
 - B. Session Summary
 - C. Homework Assignment
 - D. Closing Prayer

SESSION III HOMEWORK

- 1. Continue to record daily variable expenses

- 2. Note any clarifications you need in order to understand what you were told regarding Giving and Savings.

Possible Discussion or Homework Questions (PAGE NUMBERS RELATE TO THE BUDGET COURSE LEADER’S GUIDE)

- 1. When you see a sale, how do you react? “I am saving x dollars” or “I am spending x dollars?” (p.114)
- 2. Is three months of savings an adequate emergency savings fund for you or is a fixed amount (e.g. \$10,000) more reasonable? (p.118)
- 3. Do you agree that spending with a credit card is psychologically different than using cash? Give some examples from your own experience. (p. 140)

SESSION IV OUTLINE

- I. Opening Comments
Prayer
- II. Discovery
 - A. Homework Discussion
 - 1. Questions on Variable Expense Recording
 - 2. Questions on Giving and Saving
 - B. Review Highlights of Session III
 - C. Debt
 - 1. Video: The Debtor on the Street
 - 2. The Pull of the Culture vs. The Mind and Heart of God
 - 3. Practical Tips on Debt
 - 4. Individual Activity: Credit Cards
 - 5. Credit Card Debt and Repayment
 - 6. Individual Activity: Spending Plan Application *(Expand Time Given from 5 minutes to 10 minutes)
 - D. Session Summary
 - 1. Video: Out of Debt
- III. Closing
 - A. Q and A
 - B. Session Summary
 - C. Homework Assignment
 - D. Closing Prayer

SESSION IV HOMEWORK

- 1. Continue to record daily variable expenses
- 2. Complete your Debt Reduction Plan on p. 137 in the Participant's Guide

Possible Discussion or Homework Questions

(PAGE NUMBERS RELATE TO THE BUDGET COURSE LEADER'S GUIDE)

- 1. Give some tangible examples in your own life of the four myths that influence us as consumers. (p. 164)
- 2. Comment on the role contentment plays in your life. (p. 168)
- 3. Certain personal finance experts (e.g. Ric Edelman) promote investing surplus funds rather than prepaying on a mortgage. Why might mortgage prepayment be the better option? (p.174)

SESSION V OUTLINE

- I. Opening Comments
Prayer

 - II. Discovery
 - A. Homework Discussion
 - 1. Questions on Variable Expense Recording
 - 2. Questions on Debt Reduction Plan

 - B. Review Highlights of Session IV

 - C. Spending – Session Four – Leader’s Guide
(Spending 1-3, Spending Categories 1-7)

 - III. Closing
 - A. Q and A
 - B. Session Summary
 - C. Homework Assignment
 - D. Closing Prayer
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SESSION V HOMEWORK

1. Continue to record daily variable expenses and total the four weeks of recorded variable expenses and analyze each category total. Assess how you feel about your spending and note areas you feel should be reduced and by how much. Relate what would then be your savings to one of your goals.

2. In what ways if any have you driven your stake life-style wise since this course began?

Possible Discussion or Homework Questions
(PAGE NUMBERS RELATE TO THE BUDGET COURSE LEADER’S GUIDE)

1. What are some practical ways you can reduce your variable expenses? (p. 212)

SESSION VI OUTLINE

- I. Opening Comments
Prayer
- II. Discovery
 - A. Homework Discussion
 - 1. Questions on Variable Expense Recording
 - 2. In what ways have you driven your stake life-style wise since this course began?
 - B. Review Highlights of Session V
 - C. Spending Categories 1-5 – Session 5 – Leader’s Guide *(Expand time given to complete Spending Plan from 17 to 20+ minutes)
- III. Closing
 - A. Q and A
 - B. Session Summary
 - C. Homework Assignment
 - D. Closing Prayer

SESSION VI HOMEWORK

- 1. Insure your Debt Reduction Plan and Spending Plan are complete.
- 2. Be prepared to share the most significant heart change and head change you experienced by taking this course.

Possible Discussion or Homework Questions
(PAGE NUMBERS RELATE TO THE BUDGET COURSE LEADER’S GUIDE)

- 1. Do you have any apprehension about record-keeping? (p. 230)
- 2. Does it seem unrealistic that the spending record would take only a few minutes per day? (p. 250)

SESSION VII OUTLINE

- I. Opening Comments
Prayer

- II. Discovery
 - A. Homework Discussion
 - 1. Questions on Debt Reduction Plan or Spending Plan
 - 2. Share in your group the most significant heart change and head change you experienced by taking this course.

 - B. Review Highlights of Session VI

 - C. Record Keeping and Commitment – Session 6 Leader’s Guide

- III. Closing
 - A. Q and A
 - B. Session Summary
 - C. Closing Prayer

APPENDIX – MISCELLANEOUS CHANGES

The following changes would be made to the explanation of the Written Record System as it appears starting on the bottom of p.234 and continuing to page 250.

- 1) Starting on page 234:

Written Record System

After we complete our spending plan, we will need a record keeping system to determine if the Spending Plan is working. Although, I will later be introducing you to three record-keeping systems (envelope, written record and electronic), I will introduce you to the written record system now so you can use it to begin to record your variable expenses such as **food, clothing, entertainment, etc.**

Variable expenses are the hardest to control and are difficult to accurately budget without records. By recording these variable expenses for the next month you will have some additional factual data as you complete your Spending Plan near the end of the course. Take your Spending Plan Worksheet and turn to p.91 and look at the sheet titled “Spending Record Example.”

At the top of this sheet are the variable categories in the Spending Plan. These are the categories that vary each month, have multiple transactions, and, **as mentioned**, are generally the hardest to control.

Let’s walk through an example of how to fill out this form.

On line I where it says ‘Spending Plan’ you would fill in the amounts your Spending Plan worksheet calls for if it **was** completed. For now, we will leave it blank.

AT THIS POINT CONTINUE TEACHING BEGINNING WITH PARAGRAPH 4 ON PAGE 236, WHICH READS: “The categories in the columns across the sheet...”

- 2) **Delete the following words in the first paragraph on p. 242: “In keeping with my statement that”**
- 3) **Delete “we discussed in Session 3” from the second to the last paragraph on p. 244.**
- 4) **On p. 250, after the paragraph ending with “...will be a strong source of encouragement and correction.”) end with this statement: “Your assignment starting tomorrow is to record your daily variable expenses. Doing so will be helpful in completing your Spending Plan.”**