

What the Bible Says About Budgeting



1 Corinthians 4:2 - Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.

Proverbs 27:23 - Know well the condition of your flocks, and give attention to your herds,

1 Timothy 5:8 - But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

Proverbs 21:5 - The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but everyone who is hasty comes only to poverty.

Luke 14:28 - For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it?

INFORMATION

The Bible never mentions budgeting directly, but Biblical principles can be applied to this real life challenge. The verses shown above mention stewardship, making provision and planning. These are the central concepts of budgeting. Budgeting is the process of managing money accounts related to income and expenses, using the income to provide for our families and ourselves, planning for how we should spend and save, and choosing what expenses we want to take on. In today's world, not all expenses are as optional as we would like, but we can make decisions about our lifestyle, where we live, what we do, what we have, what things we enjoy. Stewardship demands that we do exactly this.

The Bible provides direct guidance for handling our income in the form of tithing and beyond that, the Bible provides principles for managing the rest. Our budgets should always include our tithes and offerings to the Lord, should always include provisions for our families and should always include an appropriate amount of savings to show that we are planning for the future and being diligent in our stewardship.

WHAT IT MEANS TO OUR FAMILY

We are to not only create a budget, we are also expected to maintain it and follow it diligently. According to the verse from 1 Timothy, our budget should provide, not only for our families, but for our relatives as well. The Lord provides for his people and often does so by providing for the relatives of his people. We should follow the Lord's example in our own lives.

Relevant Passages

Proverbs 13:22

A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children: and the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just.

Proverbs 21:20

There is treasure to be desired and oil in the dwelling of the wise; but a foolish man spendeth it up.

Matthew 24:45-47

Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? 46 Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. 47 Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods.

Mark 12:17

And Jesus answering said unto them, Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's. And they marvelled at him.

Luke 16:11

If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?

2 Corinthians 9:6-7

But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. 7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.