

Becoming One Financially - Things to Discuss About Finances

Background Questions

Him

Her

1. Did your parents maintain a monthly budget?
2. Who was in charge of the family financial matters?
3. If shared, how were roles determined?
4. Did your parents focus on the necessities, or did they purchase a lot of luxuries?
5. How did your parents handle the use of debt and credit?
6. Was saving for the future important?
7. Did your parents tithe? Give to church/charity?
8. Is there anything concerning how your parents handled money, that you disagree with?

Impact of Family of Origin on You?

How much have your personal financial values been influenced by your parent's financial values and habits?

- Roles for managing money?
- Impulsive spender vs. saver?
- Short term vs. Long term goals?
- Generous or more cautious?
- Tithing vs. giving? What do you do now? What are your plans for the future?

Current Questions

1. How much have you discussed regarding your **current** finances?
2. Does your fiancé(e) know your complete current financial situation?
 - Your annual pre-tax income and other sources of income?
 - Any assets, investments and/or savings that you have?
 - What current debt you each have?
 - What is your strategy for paying it off?
 - Any past credit problems you have had?
3. How much have you discussed regarding your **future** financial plans and dreams?
4. What have you learned about finances and each other through planning your wedding?
5. What will you do with the money you receive from wedding gifts?
6. How much spending money do you typically have in your possession?

Future Questions

1. Will you keep a budget? If so, who will prepare and manage it? (Who has strengths in this area?)
2. Who will pay the bills? Manage your current savings? Longer term investments?
3. Will you have joint vs. separate checking/savings accounts?
4. Will you have credit cards? Finance a car?
5. What are your long term financial plans/goals regarding?
 - Renting vs. home ownership? If renting, how soon do you plan to buy?
 - Continuing education?
 - Spouse returning to work after having children? Full or part time?
6. How much freedom would you like to have when purchasing items without your spouse's approval? (Consult threshold?)
7. What kind of car will you drive (type/new/used)/vacations will you take? How often will you eat dinner out?
8. Will you need further education to create the life you want together? If so, what will it cost? How will it be financed?

Next Steps...

Individually consider:

1. What does money mean to you? Does it make you feel powerful, anxious, guilty, loved, responsible or secure?
2. What major differences do I/we see regarding our views on finances? (family of origin, current situation)
3. What 1-3 areas of our finances do I need to pray about more?
4. Then, what 1-3 areas do we need to discuss further as a couple?