

The background of the entire image is a repeating pattern of red, teardrop-shaped outlines. These shapes are arranged in a dense, overlapping manner, creating a textured, decorative effect. The teardrops are oriented in various directions, some pointing up, some down, and some to the side.

MAKE OVER

YOUR
Money
CHALLENGE

— SojoACADEMY —

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Make Over Your Money

7-DAY BIBLE READING PLAN

Day One Hebrews 13:5

Day Two Proverbs 22:7

Day Three Proverbs 13:11

Day Four Matthew 6:19-21, 33

Day Five Luke 12:33-34

Day Six Malachi 3:8-10

Day Seven Matthew 25:14-30

BONUS: Proverbs 27:23

Introduction:

The Bible talks a LOT about money. While we are not to trust in riches, we aren't to avoid money either. Rather, we are to wisely use it to bless others and lay up treasures in heaven.

It's easy to get caught up in the cycle of work->spend->scale when we forget our opportunity to do ALL for the glory of God. That includes every financial expenditure we make. When we view our checkbooks as a means to advance the Kingdom of God, even ordinary expenses such as doctor's visits or groceries become a way to invest in eternity.

Value Based Budgeting

The blueprint for any wise financial plan starts with living within our means. In practical terms, this means spending less than we earn. Proverbs 22:7 says the borrower is slave to the lender. As Christians, we are to be slaves of no one but God and debtor to no one (see Romans 13:8). Proverbs 21:20 says, "In the house of the wise are stores of choice food and oil, but a foolish man devours all he has" (NIV). Being debt free not only allows us margin to give more, it also greatly reduces stress (and marital conflict if you are married!)

A budget generally involves starting with one's income and bringing it to zero with savings and expense categories. However, I propose we start a budget with our values (vs. our income). Prioritizing our values means we intentionally lay up treasures in heaven regardless of how little or much our income is.

Before we dive into our mini-challenge, let's take a fresh look at money and budgeting through the following passages and prompts:

Read Proverbs 31:13-21 and list all the ways this woman was wise with her money.

What values dictated the virtuous woman's financial choices?

How did the virtuous woman have financial resources to work with?

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Read each of these passages and list any godly financial values/priorities you find:

Proverbs 13:22

I John 3:17

Luke 6:38

Proverbs 13:11

Proverbs 28:27

Deuteronomy 15:7-8

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I Timothy 6:17-19

Matthew 25:14-30

What would it look like for you to prioritize these things?
What lifestyle changes might it involve?

Money Tracking

Before we can prepare a value-based budget, we need to understand exactly how we are currently spending. Tracking every dollar spent allows us to see where we can trim and adjust. It also shows us expenditures not necessarily in alignment with our values. As boring or simplistic as it may seem, money tracking is critical to wise finances (see Proverbs 27:23).

We're going to start tracking this week but this is something you'll want to do over the next 30 days for accuracy. It's a good idea to keep this up for a period of time even beyond the 30 days as some expenses are seasonal, but 30 days is a great place to start.

Each time you make a purchase (be it credit card, cash, check, transfer, etc), fill it in on the tracking sheet. You'll notice an "essential" column, which is where you'll indicate if this purchase is necessary or discretionary. This will help you determine which expenses can be trimmed in the future. I've also included space for you to note the values each purchase reflects. It takes a bit of thought to track this way but if true money change is what you're after, it is worth it, I promise!

