

# *Cell–Church Lesson Notes.*

*(February 2008– March 2008)*

## Programme of Cell Meetings

### **Week Commencing:**

- ◆ **10<sup>th</sup> February: My Money – Saving**
  
- ◆ **17<sup>th</sup> February: My Money – Investing**
  
- ◆ **24<sup>th</sup> February: Evangelism/Socials/Overview of Financial Goals.**
  
- ◆ **3<sup>rd</sup> March: Prayers/Communion/Testimonies/Worship.**

## My Money - Saving

Even if you get your spending under control and pay off your debt, you will never achieve your financial goals unless you begin a plan of consistent, planned saving. Generations past made this a part of their lives, but today's generation have all but abandoned the idea that savings are essential to financial health. Proverbs 21:20 says that "fools spend whatever they get" (NLT), so we need to start accepting responsibility and disciplining ourselves to save a portion of our monthly income. Five main areas need to be considered in the area of savings.

1. **Save for a home.** When planning on buying a home, allocate no more than 38 percent of your budget (including payment, insurance, taxes, maintenance) to it. Save for a deposit payment. Get a fixed-rate mortgage if possible, and *refuse to live beyond your means*.

**Questions:** (1) Why do you think so many people are defaulting on their home mortgages? What should you do if you find yourself in this number? (2) Read 1 Timothy 6:6–10 and discuss how this relates to buying a home. (3) Is it ever a better option to rent rather than own a home? Discuss.

2. **Use wisdom in buying a car.** When buying a car, consider resale value, likelihood of repairs, insurance costs, and your actual needs. If you pay off your car early, consider saving the amount of the monthly payments to give you a sizable amount to put down on the next car. Over time, you can even save enough to pay cash for a car!

**Questions:** (1) Many people regard their cars as status symbols. How does this sometimes get them in trouble? (2) How do you determine what kind of car you *need* versus what kind you *want*? How will this help you maintain a proper perspective?

3. **Have necessary insurance of the right kind.** Life/disability insurance, car insurance, and health insurance are necessary expenditures, but you can reduce their costs. Buy term rather than whole-life insurance, and invest the savings.

**Questions:** (1) Have you ever heard some say that they don't have insurance because they are trusting God to take care of them? What do you think about this outlook? (2) Does having insurance reflect a lack of faith in God? Discuss.

4. **Make a plan for Education.** As a parent, you should help your child with costs of education. There are many, many ways to help your child attain an education without jeopardizing your own financial security.

**Questions:** (1) Discuss the balance between the parents' responsibility and the child's responsibility in providing a University education. (2) What are some ways to help make higher education more affordable?

5. **Start early in saving for retirement.** Nothing can replace slow, steady saving over many years. It accumulates little by little and reaps a bountiful reward (Prov. 13:11).

**Questions:** (1) What do you think is the most common mistake people make in saving for retirement? (2) Do you have a plan for retirement? If not, why not?

## My Money – Investing.

### Introduction:

Now that we have kept **spending** under control, eliminated bad **debts**, started an effective **budgeting**, started a regular **savings** programme, we are ready to start **investing** which is the subject for today. It is important to commit to all aspects of this series on money in order to get the desired result of financial freedom.

**Read Luke 19:11–27.** God expects us to be good stewards of everything He gives us, including finances. As we learn the principle of investing, we cause God's resources to grow and meet not only our needs but also the needs of others. Always remember that God is more interested in getting money *through* you than *to* you!

1. **There is a difference between investing, speculating, and gambling.** Investing is consistent, methodical saving that brings a reasonable and honest return. Speculating, though not necessarily dishonest, can be very risky because it looks for a big return in a short period of time. Gambling expends money in a wager with the hopes of a large return in just minutes.

**Questions:** (1) In your opinion, what is the purpose of investing? Is it wrong to be saving for your future? Does this indicate lack of faith in God? How do you balance this with the need to be giving to others? (2) What things should you consider before joining a speculative venture? What should you do if you want to take a financial risk but your spouse does not? (3) How do you feel about gambling? Is it okay for Christians to engage in this just for entertainment? Discuss.

2. **Avoid get-rich-quick schemes.** All investments carry some risk, but always remember that the quicker the promised profit, the higher the risk. If a financial deal sounds too good to be true, then it is!

**Questions:** (1) Read Proverbs 28:20–22 NLT and discuss. Why are get-rich-quick schemes so appealing, even to people who should know better? Have you or someone you know ever fallen victim to one of these schemes? What happened? (2) What do you think about the trend in many countries to use forms of gambling as ways to raise money for education or other good causes? Do you think God approves? Discuss. (3) Poor financial decisions can lead to bankruptcy, but it is not a viable option for Christians (see Ps. 37:21; Prov. 22:1). What should you do if you find yourself unable to meet your financial obligations? (4) Does bankruptcy dissolve you of your moral obligation to repay your debt? Discuss.

3. **Plan for retirement, and plan for eternity (Eccles. 11:1–2, 6).** Do all that you can to plan for retirement early. Diversify and seek wise financial counsel so that you will be adequately prepared for your latter years. ***Never forget the real purpose of any wealth you attain: to meet the needs of others and to affect the world.***

**Questions:** (1) Why do you think most people fail to plan adequately for retirement? What should you do if you are in that group? (2) What do you think of those who leave part of their estates to the work of God? Do you agree with this, or do you think you should leave everything to your children? Discuss.

◆ *Lesson Notes for week commencing 24<sup>th</sup> February 2008*

**Evangelism/Socials/Overview of Financial Goals.**

◆ *Lesson Notes for week commencing 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2008*

**Prayers/Communion/Testimonies/Worship.**