



VICTORY
MONEY & WISDOM

PRACTICAL SPENDING GUIDE

Victory Money & Wisdom exists to see you become faithful stewards of all the talents, gifts, and financial resources God has entrusted to you. We do this through biblical financial guidance.

GENERAL TIPS

- Pray and ask God for guidance... then listen
- Find an accountability partner
- Use cash or the envelope system

WAYS TO EARN/RECOVER MONEY

- Sell surplus personal items through consignment shops, yard sales, or online vendors, etc.
- Leverage your skills for part-time work (i.e. tutoring, meal prepping for people, baking, handiwork/yard work)
- Adjust your withholdings to maximize your net pay and minimize tax refunds/payments (online IRS withholding calculator will provide a recommendation)
- Use search engines to uncover the best available discount codes
- Consider subscribing to vendors who pay you to record your normal shopping habits

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Food



MEAL PLANNING

Using your daily activities as input, invest one hour each week to plan meals (and find appropriate recipes) for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Research meal planning articles online.

GROCERIES

- Purchase store brands (instead of name brands)
- Check weekly ads and plan to shop at multiple stores (to take advantage of the best pricing)
- In some cases, Buy One, Get One (BOGO) sales may allow you to purchase just one item at a discounted rate
- Leverage loyalty programs and coupons for discount pricing (which may come through notifications or involve an online search); leverage the current sales during your meal planning activities

Housing



- Start a holding account for fluctuating utility bills
- Compare utility (gas and electric) vendor pricing annually
- Consider a shared living arrangement (i.e. roommate)
- Set your thermostat at a lower temperature in the winter months and a higher temperature in the summer months
- Consider DIY projects for repair needs or search referrals and specialty pricing online

Miscellaneous



- Keep your mobile device longer than your contract term (to avoid monthly device fees)
- Request reduced costs based upon loyalty or leverage company discounts
- Purchase gifts out of season (throughout the year when items can be found on sale)
- Money gurus prepare a wealth of money management and deal/savings suggestions online

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Personal



CLOTHING

- Shop off-season when clothing and holiday items will be lower priced
- Shop online vendors who provide discounted prices or coupons

HAIR CARE

- Consider styling/cutting your own hair
- Change the frequency of your salon/barber visit

PRESCRIPTIONS

- Request generic prescriptions (where possible)]
- Search online for best offer (i.e. a pharmacy may have a 30-day prescription on sale)
- Leverage discount cards

Recreation

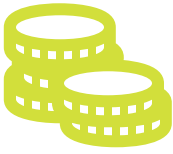


- Use discount sites to purchase event tickets
- Use discount theaters, matinee show times, or Netflix
- Find creative but affordable (or free) activities through online searches, loyalty programs, or word of mouth

Transportation



- Carpool (research commute options that will incentivize)
- Keep your car until the wheels fall off... and then buy more wheels
- Shop car wholesalers instead of dealerships
- Consider public transportation for regular trips to work or school (some companies/schools will offset this cost)



Savings

- Consider opening your savings account in a different bank (something not readily available; online banks have less overhead and may offer more competitive interest rates)
 - Grow your initial savings by using programs that transfer less than \$1 to your savings account per transaction (“round-up” programs)
 - Maximize your employer’s retirement plan matching programs
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Child Expenses



- Consider the cost of daycare in comparison to your income; it may be more lucrative to stay at home with your child/children
 - Utilize consignment shops for the frequent clothing updates
 - Leverage community programs for after-school care
 - Use Flexible Spending Account (FSA) options offered through your employer to reduce overall expenses
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Debt



- Don’t be afraid to request a lower interest rate or lower payoff on existing debt
 - Request a payment due date change to align with your cash flow
 - Attempt one additional payment per year (or bimonthly payments) to impact compounding interest
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