



Money Really Does Matter

KICK-START WITH ENCOURAGEMENT FOR PARENTS

Our example in money matters really does count! Our teens will imitate what we do with money more than what we say about it.

One of the best examples for your teen in regards to money is for you and your spouse to work hard at being on the same page financially. If you disagree about a money matter, work out your differences before you discuss the issue in front of your teen.

It is beneficial to share with your teen where you have struggled with money matters and what you have learned from those struggles.

FRAMING UP OUR PURPOSE

The key to teaching healthy financial living is to be able to communicate to our teens that money really does matter but that, at the same time, it really doesn't matter.

When it comes to purpose and contentment, money shouldn't matter.

"Better is a little with righteousness, than great revenues with injustice." --Proverbs 16:8

"Rest in Yahweh, and wait patiently for him. Don't fret because of him who prospers in his way, because of the man who makes wicked plots happen."

--Psalm 37:7

"Therefore I tell you, don't be anxious for your life: what you will eat, or what you will drink; nor yet for your body, what you will wear. Isn't life more than food, and the body more than clothing? See the birds of the sky, that they don't sow, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns. Your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren't you of much more value than they? Which of you, by being anxious, can add one

moment to his lifespan?" --Matthew 6:25-27

Most likely, you have already been hearing the phrase "I need _____" from your teenager any time a new fashion trend shows up at school or every time the newest mobile gadget hits the shelves. Our kids live in a world that often confuses needs with wants. As parents, we certainly can fall into that trap, too. God truly wants us to teach our children about the difference between our wants and our true needs. It's also crucial to help our teens recognize that desperately wanting a material item is probably an indication that we have a deeper need of being accepted and understood.

The bottom line that we should work out in our own lives first, then aid our kids in grasping, is that no amount of money or material items can sustain our sacred need for purpose. No landslide of success can fill our well of contentment for life. We will eventually draw from an empty well.

This isn't to say we should never buy some-