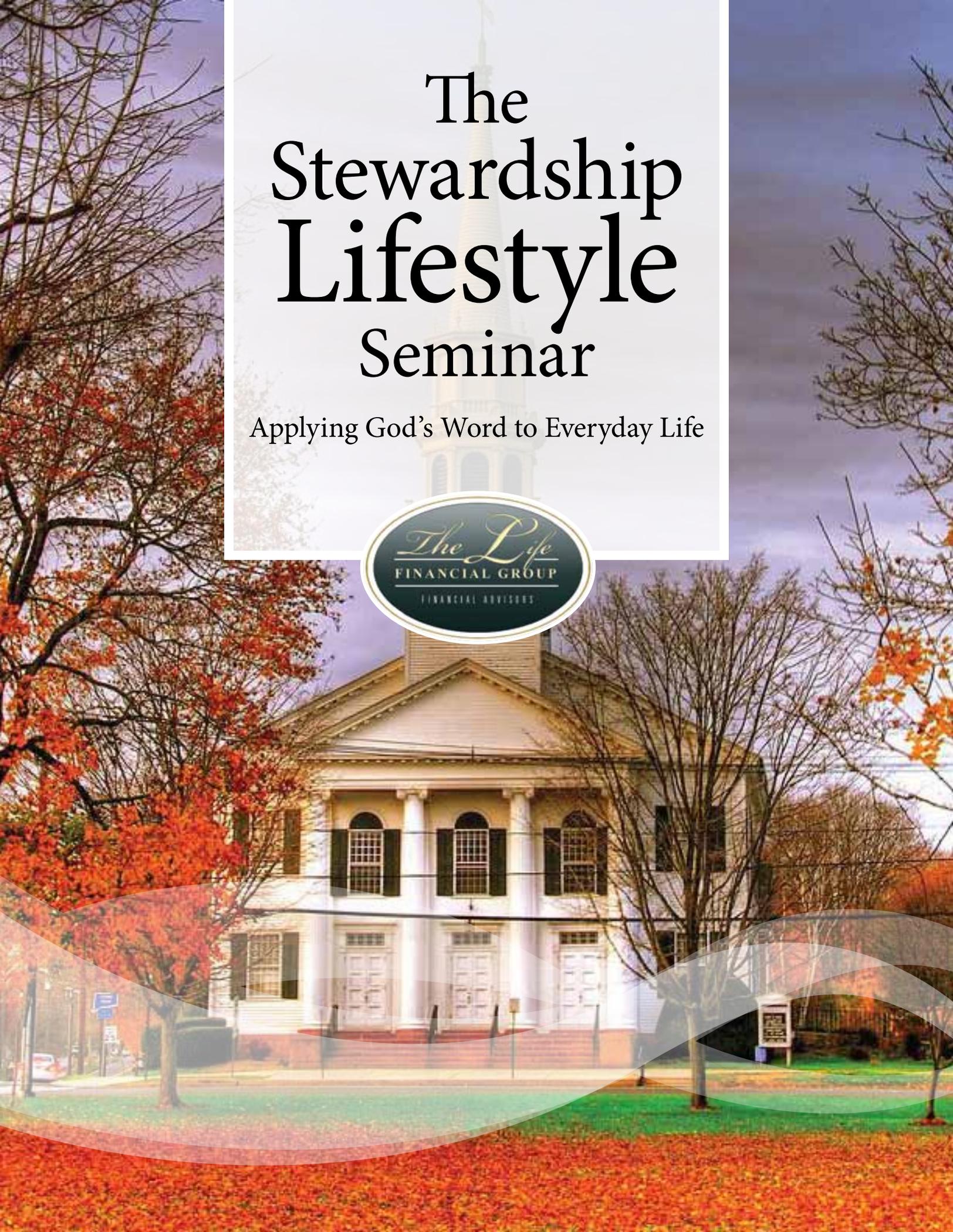


# The Stewardship Lifestyle Seminar

Applying God's Word to Everyday Life

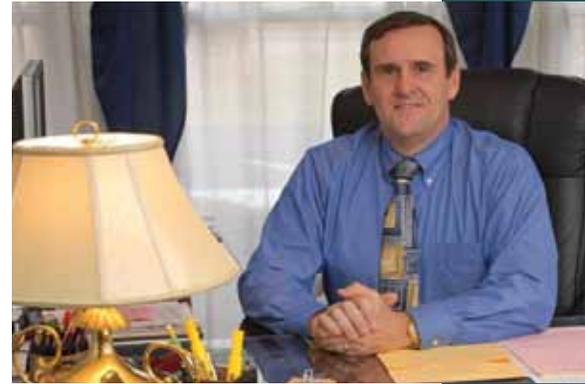


---

## The Truth About Wealth

*The Apostle Paul told Pastor Timothy to “Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy”*

**1 TIMOTHY 6:17**



---

**When Jesus said, “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth: (Matthew 6:19), the term “lay up” did not simply speak of having possessions, but of your possessions having you. “Lay up” could be better translated “hoard or stockpile.”**

**Jesus was not saying it was wrong to have things. He was warning against becoming materialistic – letting things become more important than God.**

God created us to love people and use things, but a materialist loves things and uses people. There is nothing wrong with having possessions and a successful career. The apostle Paul wrote, “Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy” (1 Timothy 6:17). God can bless a person. In fact, we read in the Bible of those who had wealth, such as Abraham, Job, David, Joseph of Arimathea, Mary, and Barnabas.

Jesus did not extol poverty as some great virtue. In fact, only one time did He tell someone – the rich young ruler – to sell his possessions and give to the poor. I think it was because that man was possessed by his possessions. Because when Jesus said, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me” (Matthew 19:21), the Bible says that he went away sorrowful. It was a test to see weather God was more important to him than his things.

Money is not the root of all evil; the love of it is. The problem with wealth is not in having it. It is how we get it. It is how we guard it. And it is how we give it.

What will be your legacy? Will you be known as a wise and generous person or a worrier, a hoarder afraid of not having enough – thus trusting in your wealth? It’s so easy and natural to begin trusting in the resources you have accumulated over the years.

We need to be reminded to focus our love, time and attention on our God and Savior rather than our gold, silver, house, toys and trinkets. While we protect and value “our stuff” we understand it is God who is in control, not the political leaders, terrorists, governments, etc.

**Life is choices; choices have consequences, make the right choice! Choose to make a difference.**

# Creating a Spending Plan that Works

**DO I REALLY NEED A BUDGET?** “Budget” is often treated like a four-letter word. However a budget is simply a spending plan – a tool to help you make the best possible use of your resources. Budgeting is not necessarily about getting out of debt, but it is about wise stewardship, and this applies to everyone, from the Janitor to the CEO.  
**Budgeting = Planning = Wisdom.**

*It is required in Stewards that they be found faithful – 1 Cor 4:2*

## I. PRINCIPLES TO UNDERSTAND – Proverbs 27:23-27

- A. Your purpose on earth is to glorify God (Matthew 5:16).
- B. A Wise man builds his house upon the rocks (Matthew 7:24-27).
- C. God rewards those who diligently seek Him (Hebrews 11:6).
- D. Everything you have belongs to God (Exodus 9:29; Psalm 24:1; 1 Corinthians 10:26).
- E. God is your provider (Deuteronomy 8:18).
- F. You must honor God with everything He has entrusted to your care (Proverbs 3:9-10).
- G. The husband is to bear the emotional burden for the family’s finances (1 Timothy 5:8)
- H. You are accountable for your stewardship (1 Corinthians 4:2; Romans 14:12).
- I. Tithes, offerings, and giving are the will of God (2 Corinthians 8:5).
- J. Financial success comes through hard work (Proverbs 10:4; 22:29).

## II. THE BUDGET WORKSHEET

### A. Record your income

- 1. List gross income for both spouses from your jobs.
- 2. Subtract all deductions to arrive at your net spendable take-home pay.
- 3. List all other forms of income: social security, investment, pension, rents, etc.

**B. Prioritize your spending.** See Priorities from a Biblical Worldview (pg. 12-14) notice that these are sequential priorities. Giving comes first than savings than spending and so forth.

#### 1. Give – this is our 1st priority and privilege

**a. Start at 10%** of your income to your local church

**b. Any giving above 10%** or any ministries other than your church falls into the offerings category.

#### 2. Save – our family is the 2nd priority (Goal: 10% of income)

**a. Emergency Fund:** If you have debt, save \$1,000 and proceed with debt snowball (see Debt Elimination, pg. 18). If you are already debt-free, start by setting aside 3-6 months living expenses.

**b. Short Term:** These are funds that you expect to need over the next 12 months (taxes, insurance payments, vacation, Christmas and birthdays, etc.). Add the value of all these bills and then divide by 12. Set up an automatic savings plan to put that amount into savings monthly until needed.

**c. Long Term:** This is for large expenses like education, marriage, automobile, retirement, etc. If your company offers a matching 401k, take full advantage of the match. Above that, consider saving in your IRA or Roth IRA. You may want to contact The Life Group or another advisor to discuss your options.

#### 3. Spend – on living expenses or needs

**a. Housing:** you should not spend more than 25% of your take-home pay on mortgage or rent

- b. Groceries:** consider paying for groceries in cash. This may prevent overspending. Also, plan out a weekly meal plan and then shop to fill the plan not the pantry.
  - c. Insurance:** consider paying your insurance premiums annually if possible. Many insurance companies charge less for this.
  - d. Personal Allowance:** to avoid overspending on things like coffee or buying lunch at work, give yourself a weekly or monthly allowance (i.e. \$10 or \$15 a week).
  - e. Debt Payments:** If you have debt (other than your primary mortgage) we recommend that you follow the debt snowball (see Debt Elimination, pg. 18)
- 4. Offerings for the needs of others** – come before luxuries.
- a. Giving to your local church beyond 10%,** Faith Promise Missions
  - b. Those in your community that are in financial need.** (See The Surprise Package Company, p. 9 )
- 5. Luxuries** - Enjoy the fruits of your labor (eating out, vacations, hobbies, Cable TV, etc.)

**National Household Spending Averages**

Category	Percent of Spending
Food	13.9%
Clothing	4.2%
Housing	23.3%
Personal	11.4%
Medical	19.7%
Transportation	8.9%
Other	18.6%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: Statistical Abstract of the United States: 2012. Table 677

### III. BUDGETING TIPS

- A. Visualize your cash flow.** Understand that peaks and valleys will happen. This helps you see the need to set aside funds for those difficult times.
- B. Use a saving method.**
  1. Envelope system
  2. Money market-automatic bank transfers. This is usually the best option.
- C. Budgeting tools that help you.**
  1. Quicken, other computer programs (Excel), etc.
  2. [www.Mint.com](http://www.Mint.com) – free online budgeting and cash flow monitor
  3. Our Spending Plan Worksheet – see page 36
- D. Record your actual expenses as you pay your bills (tracking).** This will provide the information you need to make next year’s budget
- E. Stick with it!** This is the only way to measure your money and avoid future debt. Biblical Stewardship is a lifestyle that displays wisdom in your choices.
- F. Establish Accountability** – If married, work together with your spouse. If single, find an accountability partner.



### IV. WHAT IF IT DOESN'T WORK?

- A. Try to determine God’s reasons:** Do I really need it or Is He testing my faith? Did I misspend the funds He provided?

**1. Have I violated the financial principles found in God’s Word?**

- Give and be financially blessed..... Proverbs 11:24
- Scorning correction (Pride brings poverty).....Proverbs 13:18
- Planning leads to profit, haste to poverty.....Proverbs 21:5
- Stinginess – Listen to the cry of the poor.....Proverbs 21:13
- Get-rich-quick schemes ..... Proverbs 28:19

## 2. Does God have a deaf ear to your request?

Idols of the heart (money or possessions).....	Ezk 14:3
Living in sin or disobey the law.....	Proverbs 5:29; 28:9
Sin hinders prayer.....	Isa 59:1;
Unforgiving spirit - Selfishness.....	Mark 11:25; James 4:3
With faith not double-minded.....	James 1:5-8
Good relationship with spouse.....	1 Peter 3:7
Dishonoring Parents.....	Ex. 20:12; Eph 6:1-3

B. Do you rely on God's will or MasterCard - Prayer or Plastic? "You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions." James 4:3

C. A relationship requires two-way communication. Be patient; God does answer prayer. Remember, the answer can be yes, no or wait.

*The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is the slave of the lender. Proverbs 22:7*

### Helpful Resources

- Our Website: [www.TheLifeGroup.org](http://www.TheLifeGroup.org)
- *The Total Money Makeover: A Proven Plan for Financial Fitness* by Dave Ramsey. [www.DaveRamsey.com](http://www.DaveRamsey.com)
- *48 Days to the Work You Love* by Dan Miller. [www.48days.com](http://www.48days.com)
- *Financial Parenting: Showing your Kids that Money Matters* by Larry Burkett. [www.Crown.org](http://www.Crown.org)
- *Money, Possessions and Eternity and The Treasure Principle* by Randy Alcorn. [www.epm.org](http://www.epm.org)
- Others. [www.mint.com](http://www.mint.com)

NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

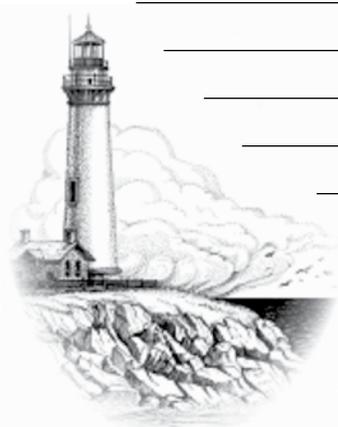
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# Debt Elimination: Free to Serve

*The wicked borrows but does not pay back, but the righteous is generous and gives*  
**Psalms 37:21**

## I. DEBT ELIMINATION STARTS IN THE HEART!

### A. Acknowledge your sin of poor stewardship, if necessary.

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9).

### B. Acknowledge your need of help.

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.” (Psa 46:1).

“Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” (Heb 4:16).

### C. Make a commitment to the Lord to be a godly steward.

“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.” (Rom 12:1)

## II. DEBT ELIMINATION REQUIRES CHANGE!

### A. Determine where you are financially.

1. List all of your debts.
2. Inventory your assets.
3. Complete a household budget.
  - a. Identify your income sources and amounts.
  - b. Identify your financial obligations.

### B. Stop going into debt. Stop the financial bleeding! When you're in a hole, know when to stop digging!

### C. Start using a disciplined spending system:

1. Envelopes
2. Savings Account for annual bills (taxes, insurance, vacation, Christmas, exc.)
  - a. Add up all these expenses, divide by 12 and set that amount aside monthly.
  - b. Withdraw from account when bill comes in to avoid debt.
3. Electronic Tracking (Quicken or Mint.com)

**Debt is a worldwide epidemic. In order to protect our families from it, we must change the way we treat money. It all starts with an acknowledgement that God owns all things and that the way we handle money reveals who or what we worship.**

*-Tim Russell*

*Most debt problems are a result of overspending, rather than lack of income.*

### D. Establish accountability.

1. If married, start with your spouse
2. Close friend or pastor who you can confide in
3. Christian Financial Advisor

### E. Develop a repayment plan.

#### 1. Reduce your expenses.

- a. Most debt problems are a result of overspending, rather than lack of income
- b. Eliminate luxuries and excess spending (i.e. cable TV, eating out, impulse spending, and coffee on the way to work...)
- c. Sell unnecessary assets (EBay, Craigslist, yard sale)

**2. Increase your cash flow.**

- a. Sell unneeded stuff
- b. You may need extra work temporarily.
- c. Increase exemptions to reduce tax refunds.

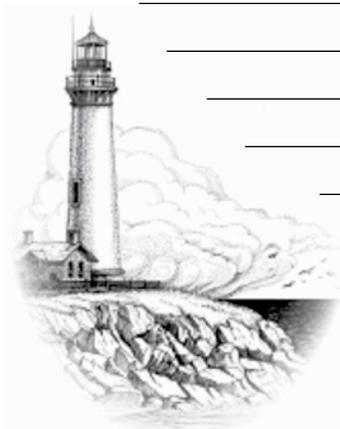
**3. Work your “Debt Snowball.”**

- a. Live on a strict budget
- b. Build up a Starter Emergency Fund (\$1,000)
- c. List debts from smallest to largest total balance, excluding your mortgage.
- d. Start by paying as much as you can on your smallest debt and make minimum monthly payments on the others.
- e. After your smallest debt is paid off, roll that payment over to the next smallest and repeat until you’re debt free.
- f. When you have to dip into your Emergency Fund (EF) stop the debt snow ball (pay minimums on all balances) and refill EF back to \$1,000.
- g. See Dave Ramsey’s The Total Money Makeover for more details.

**Extra Paid on Debt: \$200**

	Name	Interest Rate	Balance	Minimum Payment	New Payment
1	Sears	16%	\$450	\$50	$\$50 + \$200 = \$250$
2	MasterCard	18%	\$650	\$30	$\$30 + \$250 = \$280$
3	Parents	0%	\$1,600	\$200	$\$200 + \$280 = \$480$
4	Visa	23%	\$1,800	\$30	$\$30 + \$480 = \$510$
5	Car	10%	\$7,000	\$400	$\$400 + \$510 = \$910$
6	School Loan	6%	\$9,000	\$200	$\$200 + \$910 = \$1,110$

NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Personal Review Meetings

*(For those who could not meet with us Monday or Tuesday)*

Download our **Family Legacy Data Sheet** and/or our **Estate Planning worksheet** at [www.TheLifeGroup.org](http://www.TheLifeGroup.org)

Complete as much of the Legacy Data Sheet as is possible and forward to us at **978 Ben Franklin Highway East, Douglassville, PA 19518**. Feel free to call us with any questions or concerns at (610) 385-4500.

Please include a copy of your Will and POA (*Estate documents*), Tax Return (*first 3 pages*), Investment statements, Retirement Plans, Insurance, Banking, Debts, etc.

We will call to review the information and your life goals. We will follow-up with specific recommendations.

*You will then receive a detailed letter and list of 8 to 10 things to change or work on with instructions.*

**We offer a wide array of services, and specialize in the following areas:**

**Wealth Management** - We manage over \$100 Million for clients all over the USA. We use a combination of strategies and solutions based upon the goals and needs of each client. Our / objective is to achieve proper diversification in our clients' portfolios in order to reduce risk. Of course, diversification and asset allocation cannot guarantee a profit or protect against a loss.

**Estate Planning** – It is our goal to preserve and grow our clients' wealth so that they can enjoy it while they are alive, bless their families, and fund ministry when God calls them home. Our team of expert CFP's®, financial advisors, and support staff work with attorneys and accountants to minimize taxation, simplify the distribution of assets and reduce probate cost.

**Tax Preparation and Advice** – We have observed that very few tax preparers actually give advice with a tax return. For this reason, we are committed to providing our clients with top notch tax preparation and advice to properly minimize taxation in the current year and how to improve next year's tax return.

**Insurance Planning** – An important part of planning for the future is considering insurance options. Based on your state of residence we can usually offer term life insurance, long term care insurance, and disability insurance. We find that many of our older clients no longer need life insurance because their investment portfolio has grown.

**Retirement Income Planning** – How much income will I need during retirement? What sources of income will I have in retirement? When will I be able to retire and will I be able to stay retired? These are just a few of the critical questions we need to answer as you enter this pivotal phase of life. With this information we can take steps today to help you achieve your retirement goals. Allow us to become your trusted family Advisor.

*There is no fee if you indicate that you are part of this ministry.  
Our normal Initial Review Fee is \$350.*

**The LIFE Financial Group, Inc. is a full-service financial advisory and wealth management firm. We teach biblical principles of stewardship along with practical applications.**



**Roy L. Russell, CFP and President  
Estate Planning, Wealth Management, Tax and Advisory Services since 1978**

Roy is the president and founder of The LIFE Financial Group, Inc. As a Certified Financial Planner™ and an Investment Advisor Representative for Geneos Wealth Management, Inc. (Member FINRA/SIPC), he is responsible for overseeing more than 100 million dollars of invested assets for clients around the country. Roy and the staff also actively minister in conservative Bible preaching churches around the country with their three-day Stewardship Lifestyle Seminars. Maranatha Baptist Bible College has also developed a relationship with Roy and his staff to promote financial literacy in their supporting churches. In addition, Roy is a graduate of Planned Giving Institute through the College of William and Mary in Virginia. He has taught workshops on pastors' taxes and oversees the tax department at The LIFE Financial Group as well as managing his personal donor advised charity called the Institute for Biblical Endowment, a public charity through **WaterStone Foundation**.

Roy oversees their Tax Department as they prepare taxes for families around the country. In addition to the normal preparation they specialize on giving tax counsel to reduce your tax liability in the coming years. 100% of the profits from the Tax business go back into ministry. We focus on Missions and Christian Education.

He has been married for more than 30 years and has four grown children and 10 grandchildren. Roy's many hobbies include photography, sailing on tall ships, travel, waterskiing, hiking and building things for the grandchildren in his wood-working shop. He and his wife Lana attend **High Point Baptist Chapel** in Geigertown, PA.

**OTHER STAFF:**

There are a dozen staff members who participate in one way or another with our Stewardship Lifestyle meetings. Speakers in addition to Roy Russell will vary based on location and time of year. All profess Christ as Savior and are active in their own local church and are highly trained in financial matters.

**ATTORNEY:**

We strive to include a qualified and experienced Christian attorney to our meetings. He or she is not affiliated with us in any way. We have interviewed the attorney weeks ahead to be sure of background and qualifications. In lieu of the attorney paying us a fee for participation in these meetings we have negotiated a discount for the document preparation for the entire church.





God has greatly blessed us here at The LIFE Financial Group, and because of this, we want to give back to our churches and communities. For many years, we have taught Biblical principles regarding the appropriate use of money and possessions to our clients. This private training has grown into a nation-wide ministry of preaching and teaching. Here's some of the feedback that we have received from Pastors and others working in Christian colleges around the country:

***"IF WE ONLY HEARD THIS 20 YEARS AGO"***

As an educator at a bible university for the past 30 plus years I was challenged to think through my life's role as a Steward having a responsibility to God, my family and to His church. God brought Mr. Roy Russell across my path at a critical time of decision. He has been a blessing to my family in ways that I had not considered. He helped me to reevaluate my priorities and set my financial house in order. Thanks to his ministry of teaching and applying the Word my life has been challenged in a greater way for God's glory.

***"YOU HAVE BIBLICAL STEWARDSHIP RAISED TO A NEW LEVEL"***

When the word stewardship is used it's usually in reference to tithing. That isn't the case with the Stewardship Lifestyle Seminars. Roy Russell and his team of financial advisors have been trained in God's Word as it relates to true Stewardship.

While they encourage, they also correct errors found within many families. Sometimes that's hard to take since they are dealing with such a sensitive topic. But for those seeking to apply godly wisdom, their life will never be the same. The tools provided to "train up" the children are exceptional! This seminar is extremely beneficial for people of all ages.

***"YOUR ENCOURAGEMENT WAS BEYOND BUDGETING AND WENT ON TO STRENGTHEN THE MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY"***

Mr. Roy Russell and his team of advisers came to our church with the intent to minister to our people demonstrating a commitment to love them by steering them to walk in the truth in regards to financial principles of stewardship. Planning should not come after a collision on an icy road but in preparation to avoid the slick conditions of economic hard times. Thanks to ministry of The LIFE Financial Group we see God's people safely navigating through God's Word and gaining practical wisdom. I especially enjoyed seeing how our families were able to use "The Four Quarter Method of Stewardship" and "The Surprise Package Company" with their children.

***"THERE WAS SO MUCH USEFUL INFORMATION AND SO LITTLE TIME"***

For over three decades Roy and his team have challenged Believers around the country to think outside the proverbial box. He brings Scripture to life and teaches with conviction about priorities. From Sunday school and morning worship through the Tuesday evening workshop about writing a Christian's Will the sessions are packed with practical tools and great techniques to manage all of God's money, not just the tithe. Many wish they could easily extend their time at the church beyond the three days. There's so much take in that some have described it as drinking from a fire hydrant.

***We are happy to provide names and contact information for churches and Pastors around the country if interested. Please call us at (610) 385-4500.***