

CASE STUDY A

Mindy Smith, 33 years old, was recently divorced from her husband Terry after 10 years of marriage. She has three children, ages 3, 5, and 8. Terry is a CPA. Mindy has never worked outside of the home, although she completed one year of college. Terry and Mindy had been actively involved in a large church since they were married. Mindy now wants to marry Carol, a lady who sings in the church choir. The church quickly responded by following the steps outlined in Matthew 18:15-17, but Terry and Carol are not repentant and now want nothing to do with the old church. Mindy has stayed in the house, which is in a small city with limited public transit. They have a dog.

Mindy is working 40 hours per week at a bookstore, where she earns just over the minimum wage. Mindy's mother has offered to watch the children while Mindy works. The church has helped with food and utility bills, but they cannot continue this long-term.

Following are the agreements in the divorce settlement.

- Mindy was awarded the house but has to pay the mortgage.
- Mindy was awarded all personal belongings - furniture, toys, clothes.
- Mindy was awarded child support of 1,800 per month.
- Mindy was awarded the Honda Accord, which has a loan against it.
- Mindy will be responsible for the credit cards and personal loans shown on the debt list.
- Terry is responsible for providing health insurance for the children. He is also responsible for all medical expenses the health insurance doesn't pay, plus all dental and prescription drug expenses for the children if the employer does not provide health insurance.
- Terry is to carry life insurance on himself in the amount of 250,000 with the children as the beneficiaries until the youngest child reaches age 21.
- No alimony was awarded.
- Mindy was awarded the exemptions of the children for income tax purposes.

Help Mindy develop a realistic budget for her new situation as a single mother.

- Complete the "% Spending Plan" tab, using appropriate percentages from the "Percentage Guide" tab.
- In the "Spending Plan" tab, complete the "new budget" column, explaining significant changes in the "old budget" column.

The questions below will be in the Assignment for Case Study A. They are listed here so you can be thinking about them as you review the forms in this spreadsheet.

1. What scriptures and biblical principles could help Mindy understand how God wants her to manage her finances and decide about declaring bankruptcy?
2. What actions should Mindy take to help her adjust to her new lifestyle and her resulting emotions?
3. Mindy's debt payments are significantly over the guideline. What practical steps should Mindy take to address this?
4. Mindy's housing expense is significantly over the guideline. How would you help Mindy decide whether to rent or buy?
5. What actions should Mindy take to secure some type of health and life insurance?
6. What actions should Mindy take to fund emergency savings and clothing?

This is a very sad situation that you may very well run in to. Statistics show:

- 41 percent of first marriages end in divorce.
- 60 percent of second marriages end in divorce.
- 73 percent of third marriages end in divorce.

This is alarming and sad news. Yet Christians are not exempt from these types of situations.

Assets & Liabilities	
Date:	

Comments

ASSETS (Present Market Value)	Balance
Cash On Hand (both husband and wife if married)	50.00
Checking Accounts	250.00
Savings Accounts	0.00
Stocks and Bonds	
Cash Value of Life Insurance	
Valuable Collections (coins, stamps, etc.)	
Primary Home Value (look up value, e.g., zillow.com)	300,000.00
Other Real Estate	
Mortgages/Notes Receivable	
Automobile 1 (look up value, e.g., kbb.com) - 4 year-old Honda Accord	22,000.00
Automobile 2 (look up value, e.g., kbb.com)	
Automobile 3 (look up value, e.g., kbb.com)	
Personal Property (Furniture, Jewelry, etc.)	20,000.00
Retirement Savings (401k, 403b, IRAs, Pension, etc.)	
College Savings	
Other Assets	
Total Assets:	342,300.00

LIABILITIES / DEBT LIST					
CREDIT CARDS (only list cards for which you do not pay the full statement balance each month)					
Credit Card Issuer	What Was Purchased	Payment	Rate	Past Due	Balance Due
Chase Amazon	Various	50.00	23.0%	0	4,000.00
Citibank Visa	Various	65.00	20.0%	0	5,500.00
Capital One Mastercard	Various	40.00	21.0%	0	2,500.00
Total Credit Cards		155.00			12,000.00
AUTO LOANS					
Loan Company	Year, Make, Model	Payment	Rate	Past Due	Balance Due
Honda Financing	4 year-old Honda Accord	530.00	6.0%	0	18,000.00
Total Auto Loans		530.00			18,000.00
HOME MORTGAGES (includes home equity loans or lines of credit)					
Mortgage Service Company	Property Address	Payment	Rate	Past Due	Balance Due
My Town Credit Union	18 Oak Court	1,800.00	4.0%	0	250,000.00
Total Home Mortgages		1,800.00			250,000.00
OTHER DEBT (education, medical, personal, business, legal, IRS, etc.)					
Who	education, etc.)	Payment	Rate	Past Due	Balance Due
Best Finance	Debt Consolidation Loan	260.00	10.00%		8,000.00
Total Other Debt		260.00			8,000.00

Total Liabilities/Debts	288,000.00
NET WORTH (Total Assets minus Total Liabilities/Debts)	54,300.00

Instructions

1. Find the family situation that most closely represents your family (i.e. Married with 4 children, Single with roommate, etc.).
2. Find the gross income level that most closely represents your family (i.e. \$25,000 to \$125,000).
3. Taxes include all current actual monthly Federal, Social Security, Medicare, State, and Local Income Tax Taxes.

Suggested Percentage Guidelines For Family Income

(Married with 4 Children)

GROSS HOUSEHOLD INCOME:	25,000	35,000	45,000	55,000	85,000	125,000
1. Tithe/Giving	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
2. Total Taxes	Use Current Monthly Taxes					

Net Spendable Income:(Gross Income - Tithe/Giving - Total Taxes) percentages below add to 100%

3. Housing	38%	38%	34%	33%	32%	32%
4. Food	15%	15%	14%	14%	14%	14%
5. Transportation	14%	14%	12%	12%	11%	11%
6. Insurance	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%
7. Debts	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%
8. Entertainment/Recreation	3%	4%	4%	5%	5%	5%
9. Clothing	5%	5%	6%	6%	7%	7%
10. Savings	4%	4%	5%	5%	5%	5%
11. Health & Wellness	8%	7%	7%	7%	7%	7%
12. Miscellaneous	3%	3%	5%	5%	5%	5%
13. Investments	0%	0%	3%	3%	4%	4%
Total Net Spendable Income:	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

14. School/Child Care no guideline percentages

Suggested Percentage Guidelines For Family Income

(Married with 2 Children)

GROSS HOUSEHOLD INCOME:	25,000	35,000	45,000	55,000	85,000	125,000
1. Tithe/Giving	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
2. Total Taxes	Use Current Monthly Taxes					

Net Spendable Income:(Gross Income - Tithe/Giving - Total Taxes) percentages below add to 100%

3. Housing	39%	36%	32%	30%	30%	29%
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4. Food	15%	12%	13%	12%	11%	11%
5. Transportation	15%	12%	13%	14%	13%	13%
6. Insurance	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%
7. Debts	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%
8. Entertainment/Recreation	3%	5%	5%	7%	7%	8%
9. Clothing	4%	5%	5%	6%	7%	7%
10. Savings	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%
11. Health & Wellness	5%	6%	6%	5%	5%	5%
12. Miscellaneous	4%	4%	6%	6%	7%	7%
13. Investments	0%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%
Total Net Spendable Income:	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
14. School/Child Care	no guideline percentages					

Suggested Percentage Guidelines For Family Income

(Married with No Children)

GROSS HOUSEHOLD INCOME:	25,000	35,000	45,000	55,000	85,000	125,000
1. Tithe/Giving	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
2. Total Taxes	Use Current Monthly Taxes					
Net Spendable Income:(Gross Income - Tithe/Giving - Total Taxes) percentages below add to 100%						
3. Housing	40%	36%	34%	32%	31%	30%
4. Food	15%	14%	13%	12%	11%	11%
5. Transportation	15%	14%	14%	13%	13%	13%
6. Insurance	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%
7. Debts	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%
8. Entertainment/Recreation	3%	4%	4%	5%	7%	7%
9. Clothing	4%	4%	5%	6%	6%	7%

10. Savings	4%	4%	4%	5%	5%	5%
11. Health & Wellness	6%	6%	6%	6%	5%	5%
12. Miscellaneous	3%	4%	5%	6%	7%	7%
13. Investments	0%	4%	5%	5%	5%	5%
Total Net Spendable Income:	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
14. School/Child Care	no guideline percentages					

Suggested Percentage Guidelines For Individual Income

(Single with 1 Child)

GROSS HOUSEHOLD INCOME:	25,000	35,000	45,000	55,000	85,000	125,000
1. Tithe/Giving	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
2. Total Taxes	Use Current Monthly Taxes					

Net Spendable Income:(Gross Income - Tithe/Giving - Total Taxes) percentages below add to 100%

3. Housing	40%	39%	39%	36%	34%	30%
4. Food	15%	14%	14%	13%	13%	12%
5. Transportation	15%	14%	14%	13%	13%	12%
6. Insurance	3%	3%	4%	4%	5%	5%
7. Debts	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%
8. Entertainment/Recreation	3%	4%	4%	6%	6%	6%
9. Clothing	5%	5%	5%	6%	7%	7%
10. Savings	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%
11. Health & Wellness	6%	7%	6%	6%	6%	6%
12. Miscellaneous	3%	4%	4%	6%	6%	6%
13. Investments	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	6%
Total Net Spendable Income:	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
14. School/Child Care	no guideline percentages					

Suggested Percentage Guidelines For Individual Income

(Single with No Children / Living Alone)						
GROSS HOUSEHOLD INCOME:	25,000	35,000	45,000	55,000	85,000	125,000
1. Tithe/Giving	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
2. Total Taxes	Use Current Monthly Taxes					
Net Spendable Income:(Gross Income - Tithe/Giving - Total Taxes) percentages below add to 100%						
3. Housing	40%	38%	36%	34%	32%	30%
4. Food	6%	6%	7%	7%	7%	7%
5. Transportation	15%	15%	14%	14%	13%	13%
6. Insurance	4%	4%	4%	5%	5%	5%
7. Debts	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%
8. Entertainment/Recreation	6%	6%	7%	7%	8%	9%
9. Clothing	5%	6%	6%	7%	8%	8%
10. Savings	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%
11. Health & Wellness	6%	5%	5%	5%	4%	4%
12. Miscellaneous	5%	6%	6%	6%	7%	7%
13. Investments	3%	4%	5%	5%	6%	7%
Total Net Spendable Income:	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
14. School/Child Care	no guideline percentages					

Suggested Percentage Guidelines For Individual Income						
(Single with No Children / Living with Roommate)						
GROSS HOUSEHOLD INCOME:	25,000	35,000	45,000	55,000	85,000	125,000
1. Tithe/Giving	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
2. Total Taxes	Use Current Monthly Taxes					
Net Spendable Income:(Gross Income - Tithe/Giving - Total Taxes) percentages below add to 100%						
3. Housing	25%	24%	23%	22%	21%	20%
4. Food	6%	6%	6%	7%	7%	7%
5. Transportation	20%	19%	18%	16%	15%	13%

6. Insurance	4%	4%	4%	5%	5%	5%
7. Debts	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%
8. Entertainment/Recreation	9%	9%	9%	9%	10%	10%
9. Clothing	7%	7%	7%	7%	7%	8%
10. Savings	8%	8%	9%	10%	10%	10%
11. Health & Wellness	6%	6%	6%	5%	5%	5%
12. Miscellaneous	5%	6%	6%	7%	7%	7%
13. Investments	5%	6%	7%	7%	8%	10%
Total Net Spendable Income:	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
14. School/Child Care	no guideline percentages					

Revised Oct 29, 2022

Percentage Spending Plan

Percentage Spending Plan				
Gross Monthly Income	<i>from Current Spending Plan:</i>	3,467		41,604
	Use appropriate % from "Percentage Guide"			Annual Income
Income Deductions	Percentage	x	Gross Monthly Income	=
				Guideline Amount
1. Tithe/Giving	10.0%	x	3,467	347
1. Total Taxes	<i>no guideline</i>		<i>actual from Current Spending Plan:</i>	141
Net Spendable Income (NSI)				2,979

Annual NSI

Expense Category	Percentage	x	Net Spendable Income	=	Guideline Amount
3. Housing	34%	x	2,979	=	1,013
4. Food	14%	x	2,979	=	417
5. Transportation	12%	x	2,979	=	357
6. Insurance	5%	x	2,979	=	149
7. Debts	5%	x	2,979	=	149
8. Entertainment/Recreation	4%	x	2,979	=	119
9. Clothing	6%	x	2,979	=	179
10. Savings	5%	x	2,979	=	149
11. Health & Wellness	7%	x	2,979	=	209
12. Miscellaneous	5%	x	2,979	=	149
13. Investments	3%	x	2,979	=	89
14. School/Child Care	<i>no guideline</i>				
Total Percentages: (cannot exceed 100% 100%					
Total Guideline Expenses: (cannot exceed Net Spendable Income)					2,979

OK

Spending Plan	Current	Guideline	New Budget	Comments
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INCOME vs. EXPENSE SUMMARY (calculated)

Net Spendable Income	3,467		3,207
Less Total Expenses	4,505		3,207
Surplus or Deficit	(1,038)		0

Monthly Income

Gross Monthly Income	3,648		3,648
Monthly Salary	1,848		1,848
Child Support	1,800		1,800
Dividends			
Commissions			
Bonuses/Tips			
Retirement Income			
Net Business Income			
Other Income			
LESS			
Category 1 - Tithe/Giving	40	347	300
The Local Church	40		300
The Poor			
Other Ministries			
Other Giving			
Category 2 - Taxes	141	141	141
Taxes (Fed, State, Medicare, Social Security)	141		141
Other <small>Charity contributions that are taken out of the paycheck. Instead, include these deductions as expenses below</small>			
NET SPENDABLE INCOME	3,467	3,160	3,207

after sale of house & car exchange should have more money toward tithing.

Monthly Expenses

Category 3 - Housing	2,100	1,013	1,766
Mortgage(s) <i>(from Debt List)</i>	1,800		1,466
Extra Mortgage Payment			
Rent			
Insurance (included in mortgage)			
Property Taxes (included in mortgage)			
Electricity	150		150
Gas			
Water	60		60
Sanitation			
Telephone / Cell phone	45		45
Maintenance			
Internet / Cable Service	45		45
Other			
Category 4 - Food	800	417	400
Grocery	800		400
Other			
Category 5 - Transportation	910	357	450
Auto Payment(s) <i>(from Debt List)</i>	530		220
Extra Auto Payment			
Gas & Oil	200		150
Auto Insurance	150		50
Licenses & Taxes	30		30
Maintenance			
Replacement			
Other - Tolls/Parking/Transit Fares			

need to reduce mortgage is 100% over. Reduce payment to \$1376 w /23k down on 200k, rent @ \$1200 or room renter at 500.

envelope system

sell car, put money down towards less expensive car & reduce payments / trade car for something reliable but affordable

Limit driving to needs, car pool if can
Check Auto insurance - liability only or reduced

Category 6 - Insurance	0	149	200	
Life			50	
Health/Dental			150	try alternatives like Christian Health / State health insurance
Disability				
Other				
Category 7 - Debts	415	149	0	
Total Credit Cards (from Debt List)	155		0	Use 12k of home sale proceeds (35K) to pay off cards.
Total Other Debt (from Debt List)	260		0	
Extra Debt Payments				
Category 8 - Entertainment & Recreation	220	119	130	
Eating Out / Lunches	150		100	meal prep, sack lunches 3x a week or more
Baby Sitters	30			
Activities / Trips				
Vacation				
Pets	40		30	Use Coupons
Hobbies and Sports				
Other				
Category 9 - Clothing	0	179	80	
Children's Clothing Needs			50	consignment savings
Husband/Wife Clothing Needs			30	consignment savings
Other				
Category 10 - Savings	0	149	121	
Savings Account				
Credit Union			121	\$100 to emergency fund of \$1000, less fees, higher interest rates
Other				
Category 11 - Health & Wellness	0	209	0	
Doctor				
Dentist				
Prescriptions				
Eye Glasses / Contacts				
Other				
Category 12 - Miscellaneous	60	149	60	
Toiletries / Cosmetics	20		20	
Beauty / Barber	20		20	
Laundry / Cleaning	20		20	
Allowances				
Subscriptions				
Gifts (including Christmas)				
Cash				
Other				
Category 13 - Investments	0	89	0	
Employer 401k/403b plans				
Retirement IRAs				
College Funds				
Non-Retirement Stocks, Bonds, Mutual Funds				
Investment Real Estate				
Other				
Category 14 - School/Child Care ⁽¹⁾	0	0	0	
School Tuition				
School Books, Supplies, Materials, etc				
Transportation				

Day Care			
Tutoring, Lessons for Music, Dance, etc			
Other			
Total Expenses	4,505	2,979	3,207

(1) This category does not have a guideline amount.

Form Version Nov 28, 2022