

Lesson 2.7 Exercise New Budget for Mindy

Mindy is in a tough situation that I am sure she never thought she would be in. Mindy will need to know that she is not alone in this struggle. Encouraging her to join a support group to meet some emotional needs will benefit her. I'm sure Mindy is angry right now and getting her with others to encourage healing and forgiveness will be a tough process to go through. But forgiveness will be the start of her healing that will enable her to see and believe in the hope found in Jesus. Encouraging her through scripture will strengthen her and remind her that God is with her. This situation will require prayer, patience, and understanding as we listen carefully to her needs.

As Mindy meets with Richard and I to discuss her budget and options to decrease her debt, she first needs to give it all to Jesus and realize that He will be her help and strength. If Mindy can, and will be faithful with the little, God will bless her as she is obedient.

A few key factors I see are her income is below what she has going out. Mindy needs to increase her income and lower her debt. I have outlined a few ways that could be helpful in helping Mindy meet her needs and lower her debt.

After completing an analysis of Mindy's expenses and budget it is clear that we need to reduce her debt. One way to do this is for Mindy to sell her home, move into a smaller more affordable home and use the earnings to payoff all her debt. Along with selling her home, Mindy could sell her car to payoff the balance owed and then take the profit made and put it towards the purchase of a good used car lowering her monthly payment and insurance payment. The dollar amount Mindy is currently putting towards transportation needs to be lowered to free up dollars that can be allocated towards reducing debt or go to savings.

It would be beneficial for Mindy to be looking for another job that pays more and offers health benefits. Going through a job placement program with Crown is one way to do this. Other resources that are available to Mindy include different parts of the welfare program that offer help to single moms. These include, food stamps, job placement, and education programs.

Before we can really start on a budget Mindy needs to see and realize her current condition—it's not hopeless, but to really understand her financial state. We will sit with her and look at her current budget, what Crown suggests for a budget, and then together prayerfully outline a new budget.

