

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 his 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 money 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.

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Assets & Liabilities		Comments
Date:		

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	Minimum Monthly Payment	Interest Rate	Months 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	Minimum Monthly Payment	Interest Rate	Months 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	Minimum Monthly Payment	Interest Rate	Months 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	Type of Debt (medical, education, etc.)	Minimum Monthly Payment	Interest Rate	Months 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
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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%
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					
Gross Monthly Income		from Current Spending Plan:		3,648	43,776
	Use appropriate % from "Percentage Guide"				Annual Income
Income Deductions	Percentage	x	Gross Monthly Income	=	Guideline Amount
1. Tithe/Giving	10.0%	x	3,648		365
1. Total Taxes	no guideline		actual from Current Spending Plan:		141
Net Spendable Income (NSI)				3,142	37,702
					Annual NSI

Expense Category	Percentage	x	Net Spendable Income	=	Guideline Amount
3. Housing	40%	x	3,142	=	1,257
4. Food	15%	x	3,142	=	471
5. Transportation	15%	x	3,142	=	471
6. Insurance	5%	x	3,142	=	157
7. Debts	14%	x	3,142	=	440
8. Entertainment/Recreation	3%	x	3,142	=	94
9. Clothing	1%	x	3,142	=	31
10. Savings	0%	x	3,142	=	-
11. Health & Wellness	5%	x	3,142	=	157
12. Miscellaneous	2%	x	3,142	=	63
13. Investments	0%	x	3,142	=	-
14. School/Child Care	no guideline				
Total Percentages: (cannot exceed 100%		100%			
Total Guideline Expenses: (cannot exceed Net Spendable Income)				3,142	OK

Spending Plan	Current	Guideline	New Budget	Comments
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INCOME vs. EXPENSE SUMMARY (calculated)			
Net Spendable Income	3,467		0
Less Total Expenses	4,505		2,745
Surplus or Deficit	(1,038)		(2,745)
Monthly Income			
Gross Monthly Income	3,648		0
Monthly Salary	1,848		
Child Support	1,800		
Dividends			
Commissions			
Bonuses/Tips			
Retirement Income			
Net Business Income			
Other Income			
LESS			
Category 1 - Tithe/Giving	40	365	0
The Local Church	40		
The Poor			
Other Ministries			
Other Giving			
Category 2 - Taxes	141	141	0
Taxes (Fed, State, Medicare, Social Security)	141		
Other			
do not include medical/dental premiums, retirement plans, HSA/FSA contributions, charity contributions that are taken out of the paycheck. Instead, include these deductions as expenses below			
NET SPENDABLE INCOME	3,467	3,142	0

Monthly Expenses			
Category 3 - Housing	2,100	1,257	1,800
Mortgage(s) (from Debt List)	1,800		1,800
Extra Mortgage Payment			
Rent			
Insurance (included in mortgage)			
Property Taxes (included in mortgage)			
Electricity	150		
Gas			
Water	60		
Sanitation			
Telephone / Cell phone	45		
Maintenance			
Internet / Cable Service	45		
Other			
Category 4 - Food	800	471	0

Spending Plan	Current	Guideline	New Budget	Comments
Grocery	800			
Other				
Category 5 - Transportation	910	471	530	
Auto Payment(s) <i>(from Debt List)</i>	530		530	
Extra Auto Payment				
Gas & Oil	200			
Auto Insurance	150			
Licenses & Taxes	30			
Maintenance				
Replacement				
Other - Tolls/Parking/Transit Fares				
Category 6 - Insurance	0	157	0	
Life				
Health/Dental				
Disability				
Other				
Category 7 - Debts	415	440	415	
Total Credit Cards <i>(from Debt List)</i>	155		155	
Total Other Debt <i>(from Debt List)</i>	260		260	
Extra Debt Payments				
Category 8 - Entertainment & Recreation	220	94	0	
Eating Out / Lunches	150			
Baby Sitters	30			
Activities / Trips				
Vacation				
Pets	40			
Hobbies and Sports				
Other				
Category 9 - Clothing	0	31	0	
Children's Clothing Needs				
Husband/Wife Clothing Needs				
Other				
Category 10 - Savings	0	0	0	
Savings Account				
Credit Union				
Other				
Category 11 - Health & Wellness	0	157	0	
Doctor				
Dentist				
Prescriptions				
Eye Glasses / Contacts				
Other				

Spending Plan	Current	Guideline	New Budget	Comments
Category 12 - Miscellaneous	60	63	0	
Toiletries / Cosmetics	20			
Beauty / Barber	20			
Laundry / Cleaning	20			
Allowances				
Subscriptions				
Gifts (including Christmas)				
Cash				
Other				
Category 13 - Investments	0	0	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	3,142	2,745	

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

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