

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 get back on track?
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					1,000.00	from car proceeds
Stocks and Bonds						
Cash Value of Life Insurance						
Valuable Collections (coins, stamps, etc.)						
Primary Home Value (look up value, e.g., zillow.com)					0.00	Sell house, make \$25,000, pay \$12,000 towards cc debt, pay \$8,000 towards debt consolidation, save remaining \$5,000 for car purchase
Other Real Estate						
Mortgages/Notes Receivable						
Automobile 1 (look up value, e.g., kbb.com) - 4 year-old Honda Accord					0.00	Sell car and make \$22,000, pay off car \$18,000, put \$1,000 in emergency savings, use remaining \$3,000 towards a car purchase
Automobile 2 (look up value, e.g., kbb.com)					8,000.00	\$5,000 from house proceeds, \$3,000 from car proceeds
Automobile 3 (look up value, e.g., kbb.com)						
Personal Property (Furniture, Jewelry, etc.)					20,000.00	consider selling some of this to boost emergency savings
Retirement Savings (401k, 403b, , IRAs, Pension, etc.)						
College Savings						
Other Assets						
Total Assets:					29,300.00	
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	0.00	23.0%	0	0.00	pay all of these in full from house proceeds
Citibank Visa	Various	0.00	20.0%	0	0.00	
Capital One Mastercard	Various	0.00	21.0%	0	0.00	
Total Credit Cards		0.00			0.00	
AUTO LOANS						
Loan Company	Year, Make, Model	Minimum Monthly Payment	Interest Rate	Months Past Due	Balance Due	
Honda Financing	4 year-old Honda Accord	0.00	6.0%	0	0.00	pay from car sell proceeds
Total Auto Loans		0.00			0.00	
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	0.00	4.0%	0	0.00	sell house \$0.00
Total Home Mortgages		0.00			0.00	
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	0.00	10.00%		0.00	pay with house proceeds
Total Other Debt		0.00			0.00	
Total Liabilities/Debts					0.00	
NET WORTH (Total Assets minus Total Liabilities/Debts)					29,300.00	

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
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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%
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					

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Percentage Spending Plan

Gross Monthly Income			from Current Spending Plan:		3,648	43,776 Annual Income
	Use appropriate % from "Percentage Guide"					
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	38%	x	3,142	=	1,194
4. Food	15%	x	3,142	=	471
5. Transportation	14%	x	3,142	=	440
6. Insurance	5%	x	3,142	=	157
7. Debts	5%	x	3,142	=	157
8. Entertainment/Recreation	4%	x	3,142	=	126
9. Clothing	5%	x	3,142	=	157
10. Savings	4%	x	3,142	=	126
11. Health & Wellness	7%	x	3,142	=	220
12. Miscellaneous	3%	x	3,142	=	94
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

Spending Plan		Current	Guideline	New Budget	Comments
INCOME vs. EXPENSE SUMMARY (calculated)					
Net Spendable Income	3,467		3,142		
Less Total Expenses	1,760		3,142		
Surplus or Deficit	1,707		0		
Monthly Income					
Gross Monthly Income	3,648		3,648	consider using Crown's Career Direct assessment to see if you may be a good fit for a higher paying job	
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	365	365		
The Local Church	40		280		
The Poor			25		
Other Ministries			50		
Other Giving			10		
Category 2 - Taxes	141	141	141		
Taxes (Fed, State, Medicare, Social Security)	141		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	3,142		
Monthly Expenses					
Category 3 - Housing	300	1,194	1,180		
Mortgage(s) (from Debt List)	0		0	rent with a friend or family member	
Extra Mortgage Payment					
Rent			1,000		
Insurance (included in mortgage)					
Property Taxes (included in mortgage)					
Electricity	150		75		
Gas					
Water	60		30		
Sanitation					
Telephone / Cell phone	45		45		
Maintenance					
Internet / Cable Service	45		30		
Other					

Spending Plan	Current	Guideline	New Budget	Comments
Category 4 - Food	800	471	470	
Grocery	800		470	use food pantries and government assistance
Other				
Category 5 - Transportation	380	440	420	
Auto Payment(s) <i>(from Debt List)</i>	0		0	
Extra Auto Payment				
Gas & Oil	200		200	
Auto Insurance	150		100	
Licenses & Taxes	30		20	
Maintenance			100	
Replacement				
Other - Tolls/Parking/Transit Fares				
Category 6 - Insurance	0	157	160	
Life				
Health/Dental			140	try using a Christian medishare program
Disability			20	
Other				
Category 7 - Debts	0	157	0	
Total Credit Cards <i>(from Debt List)</i>	0		0	
Total Other Debt <i>(from Debt List)</i>	0		0	
Extra Debt Payments				
Category 8 - Entertainment & Recreation	220	126	170	
Eating Out / Lunches	150		100	
Baby Sitters	30		30	
Activities / Trips				
Vacation				
Pets	40		40	
Hobbies and Sports				
Other				
Category 9 - Clothing	0	157	150	
Children's Clothing Needs			100	shop at used clothing stores
Husband/Wife Clothing Needs			50	
Other				
Category 10 - Savings	0	126	277	
Savings Account			277	work on getting to 3 months emergency savings, part of this may need to go to health insurance if unable to find affordable health ins.
Credit Union				
Other				
Category 11 - Health & Wellness	0	220	220	
Doctor			125	
Dentist			50	
Prescriptions			25	

Spending Plan	Current	Guideline	New Budget	Comments
Eye Glasses / Contacts			20	
Other				
Category 12 - Miscellaneous	60	94	95	
Toiletries / Cosmetics	20		35	
Beauty / Barber	20		35	
Laundry / Cleaning	20		25	
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	1,760	3,142	3,142	

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

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