

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 Mindy 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 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 reduce her debt?
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:	2/1/25	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	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

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		<i>from Current Spending Plan:</i>	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	=
1. Total Taxes	<i>no guideline</i>		<i>actual from Current Spending Plan:</i>	=
				365
				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	3%	x	3,142	=	94
9. Clothing	5%	x	3,142	=	157
10. Savings	4%	x	3,142	=	126
11. Health & Wellness	8%	x	3,142	=	251
12. Miscellaneous	3%	x	3,142	=	94
13. Investments	0%	x	3,142	=	-
14. School/Child Care	<i>no guideline</i>				
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)			
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Net Spendable Income	3,467		3,686
Less Total Expenses	4,505		3,686
Surplus or Deficit	(1,038)		0

Monthly Income			
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Gross Monthly Income	3,648		3,816
Monthly Salary	1,848		1,848
Child Support	1,800		1,800
Dividends			
Commissions			
Bonuses/Tips			
Retirement Income			
Net Business Income			
Other Income			168

Earned Income Credit? Babysit for others for pay?

LESS			
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Category 1 - Tithing/Giving	40	365	40
The Local Church	40		40
The Poor			
Other Ministries			
Other Giving			

Category 2 - Taxes			
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Taxes (Fed, State, Medicare, Social Security)	141	141	90
Other			90

Could look at changing W-4 to increase exemptions

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	3,686
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Monthly Expenses			
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Category 3 - Housing			
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Mortgage(s) (from Debt List)	2,100	1,194	1,900
Extra Mortgage Payment	1,800		1,800
Rent			
Insurance (included in mortgage)			
Property Taxes (included in mortgage)			
Electricity	150		100
Gas			
Water	60		
Sanitation			
Telephone / Cell phone	45		
Maintenance			
Internet / Cable Service	45		0
Other			

Hang clothes outside instead. Close down vents in rooms that are less used.

Try doing without cable for a while. Read, play games. Borrow DVDs from friends.

Spending Plan	Current	Guideline	New Budget	Comments
Category 4 - Food	800	471	471	
Grocery	800		471	coupons, make meals for the whole week. Plant a garden. Can. Look up on internet other ways to save.
Other				
Category 5 - Transportation	910	440	760	
Auto Payment(s) <i>(from Debt List)</i>	530		530	
Extra Auto Payment				
Gas & Oil	200		150	Without Terry, she might be able to drive less.
Auto Insurance	150		80	Shop around for insurance, evaluate how much insurance is needed.
Licenses & Taxes	30			
Maintenance				
Replacement				
Other - Tolls/Parking/Transit Fares				Car is worth about \$22,000, could sell it and gain maybe \$3,000 to put toward a less expensive car.
Category 6 - Insurance	0	157	0	
Life				
Health/Dental				Consider a health sharing program.
Disability				
Other				
Category 7 - Debts	415	157	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	40	
Eating Out / Lunches	150		0	Eat at home and/or make a lunch to bring to work.
Baby Sitters	30		0	Trade sitting with friends/family if needed.
Activities / Trips				
Vacation				
Pets	40		40	
Hobbies and Sports				
Other				
Category 9 - Clothing	0	157	20	
Children's Clothing Needs			20	Shop at thrift stores, trade clothes w friends, hand-me-downs
Husband/Wife Clothing Needs			0	Maybe get by with clothes you have. May need sheets and towels
Other				Mom can maybe trade clothes with friends, too.
Category 10 - Savings	0	126	40	
Savings Account				
Credit Union			40	Need to start some kind of savings with first Money Map goal in mind (\$1,000)
Other				
Category 11 - Health & Wellness	0	251	0	
Doctor				Use homeopathic, old fashion tried and true. Get books on health and wellness. Eating right, sleeping right, doing preventive medicine that way.

Spending Plan	Current	Guideline	New Budget	Comments
Dentist Prescriptions Eye Glasses / Contacts Other				
Category 12 - Miscellaneous	60	94	25	
Toiletries / Cosmetics	20		20	
Beauty / Barber	20		0	Learn to cut hair. Maybe a friend can help.
Laundry / Cleaning	20		5	Do laundry at home.
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	15	
School Tuition				
School Books, Supplies, Materials, etc			15	There are always needs at school that come up during the year. Stock up in sale times pens, pencils, paper, etc.
Transportation				
Day Care				
Tutoring, Lessons for Music, Dance, etc				
Other				Need to either increase income or decrease expenses
Total Expenses	4,505	3,142	3,686	

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

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