

Give, Save & Spend

FINANCES GOD'S WAY

🏠 Homework For This Week:

- [] Read Chapter 10 of *Your Money Counts*
- [] Begin Building a Spending Plan

Module Five will be used as a week to begin building and formulating your spending plan. You will not need to meet formally in your small group.

There are two different tracks you can choose when building this plan. You can choose to build your spending through an online tool or use the plan below.

ONLINE

If you choose to use an online format, we would recommend using Mint.com. The 30 days of tracking that you have been using are the same categories that Mint uses, so the transition will be fairly seamless.

[Click here](#) to learn more about Mint.com and/or to get started!

ELECTRONIC

You've been tracking your income and spending for 30 days, and you're now ready to complete your Estimated Spending Plan.

For many this can be challenging, because you may be discouraged to learn you're spending more than you're earning. *But take heart - there is hope.* Every week for the rest of the study you will be refining a workable Spending Plan.

Complete the following steps:

1 List Your Income

List all your income in the "Income" section of the Estimated Spending Plan.

Many people don't receive steady, predictable income. This is especially common for the self-employed and commissioned salesperson. If your income is not consistent, estimate your yearly income and divide by 12 to determine your average monthly income.

2 List Your Expenses

Review your 30 Days of Tracking. Then complete and total each expense category on the Estimated Spending Plan. After you complete and total the expense categories, add them together to determine your total expenses.

Not all spending is consistent each month. Spending that varies include:

Irregular Expenses - Such as food and utility bills. Simply estimate what you spend in an average month. As you continue to use the Spending Plan, you will become more accurate in projecting these expenses.

Expenses that don't occur every month - such as auto maintenance, medical bills, clothing, and vacations. Use the list on the next page to compute the average monthly cost by estimating the annual amount spent for an item and divide by 12. For example, if you spend \$600 a year for car repairs, set aside \$50 a month to pay for repairs.

EXPENSE ITEM ANNUAL AMOUNT MONTHLY AMOUNT

Auto & Transport _____ ÷ 12 = _____

Bills & Utilities _____ ÷ 12 = _____

Education _____ ÷ 12 = _____

Entertainment _____ ÷ 12 = _____

Fees & Charges _____ ÷ 12 = _____

Financial _____ ÷ 12 = _____

Food & Dining _____ ÷ 12 = _____

Gifts & Donations _____ ÷ 12 = _____

Health & Fitness _____ ÷ 12 = _____

Home _____ ÷ 12 = _____

Kids _____ ÷ 12 = _____

Personal Care _____ ÷ 12 = _____

Pets _____ ÷ 12 = _____

Shopping _____ ÷ 12 = _____

Taxes _____ ÷ 12 = _____

Transfer _____ ÷ 12 = _____

Travel _____ ÷ 12 = _____

Miscellaneous _____ ÷ 12 = _____

3 Determine your surplus or deficit.

At the bottom of the Estimated Spending Plan, subtract the Total Expenses from your Total Income to determine whether you have a surplus or deficit.

Total Income: _____

Minus Total Expenses: _____

Equals Surplus or Deficit: _____

If income is greater than expenses, you have a surplus and need only to control spending to maximize the surplus. Using a spending plan will help you accomplish this. If expenses are greater than income, you have a deficit and a careful review and adjustments will be necessary to bring the Spending Plan into balance.

ESTIMATED SPENDING PLAN

Total Income _____

Auto & Transport _____

Bills & Utilities _____

Education _____

Entertainment _____

Fees & Charges _____

Financial _____

Food & Dining _____

Gifts & Donations _____

Health & Fitness _____

Home	_____
Kids	_____
Personal Care	_____
Pets	_____
Shopping	_____
Taxes	_____
Transfer	_____
Travel	_____
Miscellaneous	_____
TOTAL INCOME	_____
TOTAL EXPENSES	_____
EQUALS SURPLUS OR DEFICIT	_____