

Saving is the cornerstone of wise stewardship, while excessive consumption and waste are the opposite.



week four

# SAVE IT

My Weekly Progress...



**Memorize and meditate on one of the three Bible verses for this week**



**Devote time this week to the spiritual practices described on page 218**



**Learn God's heart on saving by completing this week's homework questions and practical application exercises**



**Preview this week's lesson on the teaching DVD**



**Read the chapter notes on "Save It"**

Joan  
Christilaw





## SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Choose the verse that BEST RELATES  
to you and commit it to memory.



**"Precious treasure and oil are in a wise man's dwelling,  
but a foolish man devours it." (Proverbs 21:20, ESV)**



**"A faithful man will be richly blessed, but one eager to  
get rich will not go unpunished." (Proverbs 28:20, NIV)**



**"Wealth gained hastily will dwindle, but whoever  
gathers little by little will increase it."  
(Proverbs 13:11, ESV)**

Percentage of  
American adults who  
have an emergency  
fund to fall back on:

**38%**<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup>Source: Federal Reserve, U.S. Census Bureau,  
Internal Revenue Service; verified July 24, 2012.



## PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Complete prior to your weekly group meeting.

- 1** Saving is the key to ending the debt cycle. Therefore, it should not be neglected. Review the Savings category in your *MoneyLife® Budget™*. Find **ONE** way you can curb expenses to allocate more to savings. Once you've determined the amount, start setting it aside.

DONE!

- 2** List any key short- and long-term goals that would require your having to set some savings aside. Car replacement? Home improvements? Education expenses? What amount can you cut out of your budget in order to start making headway on these goals?

DONE!

- 3** Continue tracking daily income and expenses using the *MoneyLife® Tracker™*. Understanding your spending habits in detail will help you curb unnecessary spending.

DONE!

Percentage of American families who have no savings at all:

25%<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup>Source: Federal Reserve, U.S. Census Bureau, Internal Revenue Service; verified July 24, 2012.

## THE BIBLE ON SAVING



“You should practice saving money on a regular basis—even if you are in debt. If you can save no more than \$5 a month, develop a discipline of saving.”

— LARRY BURKETT

The Bible encourages us to save: **“Precious treasure and oil are in a wise man’s dwelling, but a foolish man devours it”** (Proverbs 21:20).

God commends the ant for saving. **“Four things on earth are small, yet they are extremely wise: Ants are creatures of little strength, yet they store up their food in the summer”** (Proverbs 30:24-25, NIV). We need to think like ants! Even though they are small, they save. You may not be in a position to save a lot right now, but it is important to begin the habit.

Joseph saved 20 percent a year during seven years of great abundance in order to survive during seven years of famine (Genesis 41:29-30). That’s what saving is all about: not spending too much today in the good years so that you will have something to spend in the future lean years.

The most effective way to save is to make it automatic. When you receive income, the first payment you make should be a gift to the Lord, and the second should go to savings. An automatic payroll deduction is a great way to save. Some people save their tax refunds or bonuses. Remember this: If you save immediately, you’ll save more. The Bible doesn’t teach an amount to be saved. We recommend saving 10 percent of your income. This may not be possible initially, but begin the habit of saving—even if it’s only a few dollars a month.

## DAY 1

Read Genesis 41:34-36; Proverbs 21:20; Proverbs 30:24-25.

1) What do these passages say to you about savings?

2) If you are not yet saving, how do you propose to begin?



### PRactical APPLICATION

## REMINDER

Keep plowing ahead on the Planner – every exercise is designed to get you closer to achieving your financial goal.

*(Look back to the beginning of this chapter for directions.)*

## UNDERSTANDING COMPOUND INTEREST

It's important to understand the three variables in compounding: the amount you save, the interest rate you earn, and the length of time you save.

### 1. The Amount

The amount you save depends on your income and spending. We hope you will increase the amount available for saving as you learn God's way of handling money.

### 2. Rate of Return

The second variable is the rate you earn on an investment. The following table demonstrates how an investment of \$1,000 a year grows at various rates.

	Year 5	Year 10	Year 20	Year 30	Year 40
1%	\$6,152.02	\$11,566.83	\$23,239.19	\$36,132.74	\$50,375.24
2%	\$6,308.12	\$12,168.72	\$25,783.32	\$42,379.44	\$62,610.02
5%	\$6,801.91	\$14,206.79	\$35,719.25	\$70,760.79	\$127,839.76
8%	\$7,335.93	\$16,645.49	\$50,422.92	\$123,345.87	\$280,781.04

As you can see, an increase in the interest rate has a remarkable effect on the amount accumulated. A two percent increase almost doubles the total over 40 years. But since higher returns usually also carry higher risks, be careful not to shoot for unrealistic returns.

### 3. Time

Time is the third factor. Answer this: Who would accumulate more by age 65: Jennifer who started saving \$1,000 a year at age 21, saved for eight years, and then completely

stopped; or Matt who saved \$1,000 a year for 37 years starting at age 29? Both earned 10 percent. Is it Jennifer who saved a total of \$8,000 or Matt who saved \$37,000?

Incredibly, Jennifer accumulated \$427,736 while Matt only accumulated \$363,043, all because of the earlier start. So start saving now!

## DAY 2

1) According to 1 Timothy 5:8, what is one biblically acceptable goal for saving?

2) What does 1 Timothy 6:9 say is a biblically unacceptable reason for saving?

3) According to 1 Timothy 6:10, why is it wrong to want to get rich (refer again to v. 6:9)? Do you have the desire to get rich?

4) What does 1 Timothy 6:11 reveal you should you do if you have the desire to get rich?

## PUT NO CONFIDENCE IN YOUR ASSETS

***“As for the rich in this present age, charge them not... to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy” (1 Timothy 6:17).***

The ability to accumulate assets without placing our confidence in them is a struggle. We tend to trust in the seen rather than in the invisible, living God. It is easy to trust in money, because money can buy things. But we need to remind ourselves that possessions do not last and that God alone can be fully trusted.

## GIVE GENEROUSLY

***“They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life” (1 Timothy 6:18-19).***

The Lord wants the prosperous to be generous and tells them of two benefits: (1) eternal treasures that they will enjoy forever, and (2) the blessing of taking hold of “that which is truly life.” By exercising generosity, they can live the fulfilling life God intends for them now.



## SCRIPTURE MEMORY

## REMINDER

Keep meditating on the verse you chose. God’s wisdom will become a natural part of your financial decision making.

***(Look back to the beginning of this chapter for your verse.)***



## DAY 3

Read Proverbs 30:7-9.

1) What does this passage teach about the danger of not saving for times of need?

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2) What does it teach about the danger of amassing wealth?

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Read Matthew 6:19-21.

3) What does it mean to store up treasures in heaven?

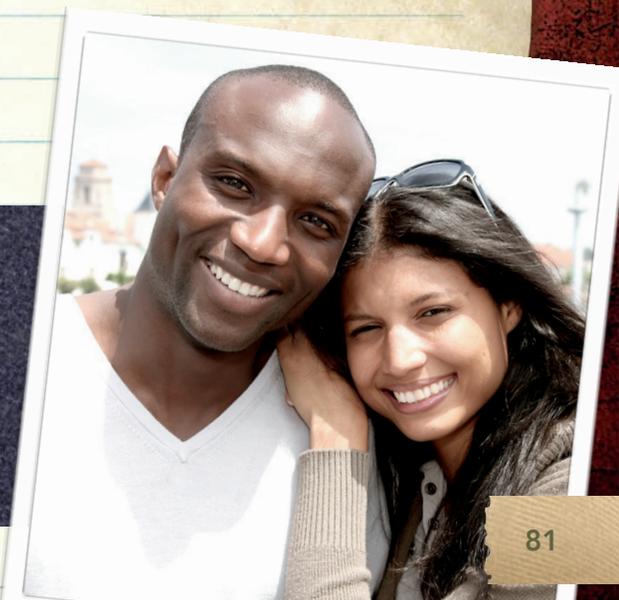
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True stewards are able to accumulate assets without placing their confidence in them, knowing that everything we have is temporal.



## DEVELOPING A SAVING MINDSET

Throughout the Great Depression and on into World War II, there was a common expression in America: “Use it up, wear it out. Make it do, or do without.” Back then, there was no stigma attached to living a frugal lifestyle. On the contrary, frugality was considered a virtue. That saving mindset of the 1930s and ‘40s is a far cry from today’s “Buy it now, throw it out. Buy a new one, don’t go without.”

In order to save a significant portion of your income, you may need to lower your expenses by dramatically re-ordering your lifestyle. While it might seem difficult, it can be done. It’s okay to start out slow, perhaps trying one thing to reduce your expenses. As you achieve success, your confidence will grow and you will be willing to take on new challenges.

## TIPS FOR SAVING

- ✗ Begin with \$1,000 of “emergency” savings. Once you reach your goal, just keep going until you reach three to six months of your living expenses.
- ✗ Wait 30 days before making any major purchases. This will allow you to shop for a bargain. Often as we wait patiently, the Lord provides in unexpected ways!
- ✗ Start a jar of pocket change and deposit the funds you save into an account every six months.
- ✗ Ask your employer to direct deposit a set amount to a separate account. Consider opening an account at a different bank than where you keep funds for your daily expenditures.
- ✗ Don’t pay for services that you can do yourself (house cleaning, trash pick up, taxes etc.).
- ✗ Save a percentage of your annual tax refund.



## PRactical APPLICATION

## REMINDER

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*(Look back to the beginning of this chapter for directions.)*

## DAY 4

Read Luke 12:16-21, 34.

1) Why does the Lord call the rich man a fool?

2) According to this parable, why do you think it is scripturally permissible to save only when you are also giving?



## SCRIPTURE MEMORY

## REMINDER

Keep meditating on the verse you chose.  
God's wisdom will become a natural part  
of your financial decision making.

*(Look back to the beginning of this  
chapter for your verse.)*

## DAY 5

1) What, in your opinion, is the difference between saving and hoarding?

How can you protect yourself from becoming a hoarder?

2) Do you believe parents should leave a material inheritance to their children? Why or why not?



## PRACTICAL APPLICATION

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