



Dumping Debt {Dave Ramsey}

INTRODUCTION

A recent USA today poll found that 52% of those surveyed were worried about money—and why not? 70% of Americans are living paycheck-to-paycheck. The average American family is \$38,000 in debt. 1.6 million people filed for bankruptcy last year. Its no wonder that money is the #1 reason for divorce and the #1 topic that couples fight over. Clearly the majority of us could use some wise financial counsel. In this session we will learn to tackle one of the major causes of our financial woes—we will learn to dump debt.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does our society view debt?
2. Read Proverbs 22:7. Which of the following types of slavery have you experienced?
 - a. mathematical—the power of interest working against you
 - b. relational—just try borrowing money from a friend
 - c. career—you aren't free to make job changes
 - d. physical—stress and having to work too much
 - e. theological—you aren't free to give to God
 - f. societal—you aren't free to help the poor

Five steps to becoming debt free:

1. *Stop borrowing more money.* Would it be wise for you to cut up your credit cards?
2. *Start saving money.* Dave recommends saving \$1000 immediately for an emergency fund. What are the advantages of an emergency fund?
3. *Prayer really works.* Read Matthew 7:11. Do you tend to turn to God for financial help?
4. *Sell something.* What are some things that you don't need that you could sell?
5. *Earn extra income.* Would it be wise for you to work overtime or find a part-time job to increase your income in order to pay off your debt?

THINK ABOUT IT

Dave Ramsey says that before you will get serious about becoming debt free, you have to get mad. Read Proverbs 6:1-5. Think about the intensity of a gazelle's flight from a hunter, where life and death hang in the balance. Then write down what debt is really costing you (refer to question 1). With how much intensity will you pursue financial freedom?

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Come up with a plan for paying off your debt. Fill the Debt Snowball plan as a start. www.mytotalmoneymakeover.com/media/pdf/debt_snowball_sample.pdf

CHANGING YOUR MIND

“The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.” Proverbs 22:7