



YOU ASKED FOR IT · HOW TO LIVE FINANCIALLY FREE

SNARED, NOT STUCK.

In Luke 15, Jesus tells the story of a young man who demanded his inheritance early, wasted all of it, and ended up feeding pigs. Then he came to his senses. He told the truth about where he was, made a plan, went home to his father, and acted immediately.

That's still the way out of any hole, including a financial one. **No matter how deep you are, you can get out.** Fill this in on your phone or print it, together with your spouse or a friend you trust.

1 TELL THE TRUTH

PAGE 1

Look at the real numbers.
Where are you, really?

2 MAKE A PLAN

PAGES 2-3

Stop digging a hole, create
margin, and snowball your
debt.

3 ASK THE FATHER

PAGE 4

You can't do this alone, and you
don't have to.

4 DO IT TODAY

PAGES 4-5

Don't wait for January. Start
now.

1 Tell the truth: where am I? *"...here I am starving to death!" Luke 15:17*

You can't get out of a hole you won't admit you're in. Pull up your bank and card statements and write the real numbers.

MONTHLY TAKE-HOME PAY

\$

TOTAL OF ALL MY DEBTS

\$

TOTAL MONTHLY MINIMUM PAYMENTS

\$

SAVINGS RIGHT NOW

\$

DO I SPEND MORE THAN I MAKE EACH MONTH?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure Not sure? That's okay. The next page will help you figure it out.

WHAT I OWE ON (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

☐ Credit cards ☐ Car ☐ Student loans ☐ Medical ☐ Family or friends ☐ Home ☐ Other

Part of telling the truth is coming to terms with how we got here. Sometimes it was an unexpected bill we didn't plan for. Sometimes it was living at or above our means with no margin. Sometimes we just forgot to pay attention. Whatever it is, God can get you out. Take some time to detail it: **how did we get here?**

Not every hole is one you dug. Medical bills, a divorce, or someone else's choices can put you there. Even when it isn't your fault, it can still leave you snared. Here's the good news: you can get out.



STEP 2 · MAKE A PLAN

YOUR MONTHLY PLAN

STOP DIGGING THE HOLE

The first step out of a hole is to stop making it deeper.

The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty.

PROVERBS 21:5 NIV

I'M DECIDING: NO NEW DEBT OR CREDIT CARD SPENDING, STARTING TODAY.

Not next month. Not after one more purchase. Today. If you're married, decide it together and both initial.

AND I'M DECIDING TO

- ☐ Hide my credit cards or cut them up, and delete them from my digital wallets
- ☐ Move all my expenses from credit to debit
- ☐ Wait a few days on any unplanned purchase, so impulse doesn't win

INITIALS SPOUSE DATE

Living on your credit cards right now? This budget is how you get off them. Find your margin, then move your expenses from credit to debit one at a time, as fast as you realistically can.

INCOME VS. EXPENSES

Give every dollar a job before the month starts. Then track what you actually spent and see where the plan held.

	PLANNED	ACTUAL
INCOME	TOTAL	\$
Paycheck 1	\$	\$
Paycheck 2	\$	\$
Other income	\$	\$
GIVING	TOTAL	\$
Giving	\$	\$
SAVING	TOTAL	\$
Emergency fund	\$	\$
Other savings	\$	\$
HOUSING	TOTAL	\$
Rent / mortgage	\$	\$
HOA / repairs	\$	\$
INSURANCE & HEALTH	TOTAL	\$
Health insurance	\$	\$
Medical	\$	\$
OTHER (WRITE YOUR OWN)	TOTAL	\$
	\$	\$
	\$	\$
	\$	\$

	PLANNED	ACTUAL
UTILITIES	TOTAL	\$
Electric	\$	\$
Water / trash	\$	\$
Phone	\$	\$
Internet	\$	\$
FOOD	TOTAL	\$
Groceries	\$	\$
Restaurants	\$	\$
TRANSPORTATION	TOTAL	\$
Gas	\$	\$
Insurance / registration	\$	\$
Repairs	\$	\$
DEBT	TOTAL	\$
Minimums (page 3)	\$	\$
Extra to my snowball	\$	\$
PERSONAL & FAMILY	TOTAL	\$
Childcare / kids	\$	\$
Subscriptions	\$	\$
Fun money	\$	\$

TOTAL INCOME

\$

—

TOTAL EXPENSES

\$

=

MY MARGIN

\$

CREATE MARGIN

Is there any way I can earn more? Anything I can spend less on? Do both, and you get there faster.

WHAT ARE ONE OR TWO WAYS I CAN EARN MORE?

WHAT ARE ONE OR TWO THINGS I CAN SPEND LESS ON?



STEP 2 · MAKE A PLAN

YOUR DEBT SNOWBALL

YOUR DEBT SNOWBALL

Start with the smallest debt, not the biggest. Paying one off fast gives you a quick win, and every win frees up money and motivation for the next one. Like a snowball rolling downhill, it gets bigger as it goes.

- 1** List every debt from the smallest balance to the largest.
- 2** Pay the minimum on all of them. Set up autopay for the minimums so you never miss one.
- 3** Throw every extra dollar of margin at the smallest one.
- 4** When it's paid off, roll that payment into the next one.

#	WHO I OWE	BALANCE	MINIMUM	SNOWBALL PAYMENT	PAID OFF (MONTH)
1		\$	\$	\$	
2		\$	\$	\$	
3		\$	\$	\$	
4		\$	\$	\$	
5		\$	\$	\$	
6		\$	\$	\$	
7		\$	\$	\$	
8		\$	\$	\$	
9		\$	\$	\$	
10		\$	\$	\$	

MY STARTER SAVINGS GOAL, BEFORE THE SNOWBALL

\$

Why savings first? So the next surprise bill doesn't send you back to the credit card. Build this cushion, then throw everything extra at the snowball.

EXTRA EACH MONTH FROM MY MARGIN (PAGE 2)

\$

WORK OUT MY DEBT-FREE MONTH

MY DEBTS

\$

MINIMUMS + EXTRA

\$

ABOUT

= months

MY DEBT-FREE MONTH

Count that many months from today. It's rough math that ignores interest, so give yourself a little room. Hope with a date on it is a plan. Circle it. Tell someone.

CELEBRATE EVERY WIN · Fill one in for every debt you pay off. Married? Do it together. Then go get tacos.



Free yourself, like a gazelle from the hand of the hunter, like a bird from the snare of the fowler.

PROVERBS 6:5 NIV



STEPS 3 & 4

ASK THE FATHER · DO IT TODAY

3 ASK THE FATHER

The son didn't just make a plan. He went home to his father. A plan is good, but you can't do this alone, and you don't have to clean up your mess before you bring it to God. He's closest to you when you're hurting.

The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

PSALM 34:18 NIV

PRAY IT

Father, I've been doing this my way. Forgive me for _____. I'm done hiding it. Give me wisdom for this plan and the strength to stick with it. My job is to obey. The outcome is Yours. **Lord, will You help me?** Amen.

Don't carry it alone

Debt grows in secret. Telling someone you trust is one of the fastest ways out.

SOMEONE I'LL TELL THE TRUTH TO

Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

PROVERBS 28:13 NIV

4 DO IT TODAY

It's one thing to think about it. It's another to do it. The son didn't wait until he felt ready.

- ☐ Write down my real numbers (page 1)
- ☐ Decide: no new debt, starting today (page 2)
- ☐ Fill in my plan and my snowball (pages 2–3)
- ☐ Pick my debt-free month (page 3)
- ☐ Sit down at the kitchen table and sign the covenant (page 5)

So he got up and went to his father.

LUKE 15:20 NIV

NEED MORE HELP?

That's nothing to be ashamed of. Financial Peace University, a Freedom group, or a financial counselor can walk with you. Let us know and we'll help you take the next step: spiritchurch.co/connect



OUR MONEY COVENANT

A few years back, our pastors taught us to pre-decide how we'd handle money, so the snare doesn't get to decide for us. These are the five decisions we made. We're not putting them on you. Read them, pray over them, and make them yours. Then sit down at the kitchen table and sign it.

1 WE ASK GOD FIRST.

He owns it all. We won't make a money decision without asking for His wisdom.

PSALM 24:1 • JAMES 1:5

2 WE GIVE FIRST.

A tenth is our starting place, and we grow from there. We give prayerfully, joyfully, and on a schedule.

PROVERBS 3:9 • 1 CORINTHIANS 16:2 • 2 CORINTHIANS 9:7

3 WE AVOID DEBT.

We're not going back into the snare.

PROVERBS 22:7

4 WE WON'T SPEND ALL WE MAKE.

We keep creating margin, and we save.

PROVERBS 21:20

5 WE'LL BE GENEROUS.

We do all of this so we can be generous, like the father who threw a feast for his son that returned.

1 TIMOTHY 6:18 • LUKE 15:22-24

WE'RE MAKING THESE FIVE DECISIONS

SIGNED

SPOUSE OR ACCOUNTABILITY PARTNER

DATE

But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

LUKE 15:20 NIV

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