PRACTICAL PROSPERITY

Advice for Single Mothers

Question: I am a single mom with two grade-schoolage girls. I'm not destitute but I'm not wealthy, either. Right now, I make enough to support myself and the girls. What are some things I need to know now about managing my money so I'm not hit with surprises later on? I do not want to remarry. — TINA

Answer: A wise woman, Tina, is one who's asking the right questions. Thank you. Consider the following ideas which may activate the Law of Abundance and the Law of Right Thinking. Both are essential to our wealth management.

1. **Establish your entire range of priorities.**Divide your goals into one of three categories: short term, medium term or long term. Short term may be this summer's vacation while college costs and retirement planning may be longer term.



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- 2. Act on getting your financial life in order.
 Cut back on wasteful spending immediately and channel the extra money to your most pressing needs. If big expenses are in your future, start learning what it will take to accomplish them. That could mean signing up to participate in an employer-sponsored retirement plan or researching financial aid for college.
- 3. Consider working with a financial professional at least one time for input on how you may better manage your finances and plan for the future. Doing this solo can be daunting.
- 4. Break the credit card habit. Consider transferring balances to lower interest rate accounts, and pay off existing debts aggressively. Check to ensure that the information in your credit history is accurate by contacting all three credit reporting agencies.
- Search for fun, low-cost ways to spend family time together. Ask the girls for ideas.
- 6. **Get your will/trust in order** so the girls are provided for, and get advice from a professional on insurance coverage.
- 7. **Begin teaching the girls sound spiritual/financial principles now.** Having an allowance is a great way to start. There are practical parenting books and websites about this topic. ******

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