

Case Study

Len and Rachel are Christians. Len works full time and earns a below-average income while Rachel stays at home with their three children. With one modest income, their personal cash flow is very tight. Nevertheless, in faith they regularly give the first 10 percent to God's work. They budget carefully, regularly study what the Bible says on finances, and read helpful Christian books by authors such as Larry Burkett, Howard Dayton, and Ron Blue.



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Len and Rachel habitually pray and seek God's wisdom and direction as to how they should use the money that God has entrusted to them. They incorporate God's plan within their monthly budget and clearly set aside funds for future needs such as annual expenditures (e.g., insurance, repairs, vacation) and longer-term needs such as automobile replacement, their children's education, and retirement. These were their habits for many years.

Over the years, they applied any surplus funds against their mortgage and by their mid-50s they were totally debt free.



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They often reflect on the many times during their marriage that God provided a need via “a mini miracle.” For example, even though they saved regularly for automobile replacement, on one occasion, as they prayerfully asked God for his wisdom with respect to an automobile purchase, God provided an automobile at absolutely no cost from a member in their church (a gift).

All three of their children have now completed university with no debt. Len and Rachel assisted by saving and investing monthly since the day each child was born, but they also trained their children to save as much as they could for their education from their part-time jobs.



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They praise God for his many blessings. They acknowledge that many times God met their needs in unusual ways as they prayed and waited upon the Lord. They did not use credit even though it was readily available.



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Questions:

1. What Biblical financial principles did Len and Rachel follow? Please list them below and provide a reference to Scripture if you can.



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1. What Biblical financial principles did Len and Rachel follow? Please list them below and provide a reference to Scripture if you can.
 1. They saved regularly for future needs (Proverbs 13:11, Proverbs 21:20 TLB).
 2. They have clearly learned to be content with God's provision (Philippians 4:11-13).
 3. Len and Rachel have developed and implemented a budget (Luke 14:28-30).
 4. Len and Rachel give God "the first fruits" by tithing (Proverbs 3:9, 10).



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Questions:

1. What Biblical financial principles did Len and Rachel follow? Please list them below and provide a reference to Scripture if you can.
5. **They regularly studied what God's Word says on finances (Joshua 1:8, Romans 12:2).**
6. **They habitually prayed and ask God for his wisdom (James 1:5) and his specific direction (Psalm 32:8, John 10:27).**
7. **They teach their children, through their example and instruction, God's financial principles (Proverbs 22:6).**



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1. What Biblical financial principles did Len and Rachel follow? Please list them below and provide a reference to Scripture if you can.
8. **Len and Rachel trusted God (rather than the credit cards or a line of credit) to meet their needs (Matthew 6:31-33, Philippians 4:19).**
9. **They waited upon God for His provision (Psalm 37:7, Lamentations 3:24).**
10. **They made debt reduction a priority (Proverbs 22:7).**
11. **They are thankful for God's provision (Psalms 118:1 & Psalms 107:8, 9).**



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Questions:

2. Do you think that Len and Rachel's relationship with God and their understanding of God's Word on finances impacted the way they managed money? Please explain your answer.



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2. Do you think that Len and Rachel's relationship with God and their understanding of God's Word on finances impacted the way they managed money? Please explain your answer.

Absolutely yes! The major reason Len and Rachel are managing money God's way is that they have diligently studied and implemented what God's Word says on finances. In addition, as a result of their close personal relationship with God, they have been able to sense God's wisdom (James 1:5) and God's specific direction (Psalm 32:8) in making financial decisions!



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Questions:

3. What impact do you think Len and Rachel's management of money will have on their three children?

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Len and Rachel's management of money will have a tremendous positive impact on their children for their lifetime!

1. Their children will likely manage money God's way.
2. They will likely use little or no debt and avoid the stress and negative consequences that others encounter.
3. Len and Rachel's godly example is much more valuable than a huge financial inheritance.
4. Their godly example is of eternal value to their children, because if their children manage money God's way, they will be blessed not only on earth, but also in heaven for eternity! (See [Matthew 25:14-30](#) & [Matthew 19:29](#).)

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Questions:

4. What if God called one of the children of Len and Rachel into full-time ministry? Please explain your answer.



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4. What if God called one of the children of Len and Rachel into full-time ministry? Please explain your answer.

They would be free to do so because:

- They graduated with no debt, and
- Since they have learned many biblical financial principles from their parents, **it's likely that they would budget carefully, be content with God's provision and therefore be able to live on a modest income.**



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