



**Teach Your Family to Set a Financial
Destination Strategy (Part 4)
(Three Strategies That Can Change Everything)**

Date: February 28, 2021

Text: Deuteronomy 6:4–9, NIV

- 4 Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 5 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. 6 These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. 7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 8 Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 9 Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates. (NIV)

Big Question: What is your family financial strategy that everyone can explain?

I. Three Insights About Americans and Money

1. Some Americans Hate Talking About Money

- “Americans love to talk about how Americans hate to talk about money. Indeed, recent surveys from financial and market-research firms have found that in **34% of cohabiting couples (married or not), one or both partners couldn’t correctly identify how much money the other makes**; that only **17% of parents with an income above \$100,000 a year had told (or planned to tell) their children how much they earn** or their net worth; and that people are “more comfortable” talking with friends about marital discord, mental health, addiction, race, sex, and politics than money. (The Atlantic, Joe Pinsker, March 2, 2020)

• **Source: “Why Americans Don’t Talk About Money”:**

<https://www.theatlantic.com/family/archive/2020/03/americans-dont-talk-about-money-taboo/607273/>

2. Reasons Some Americans Hate Talking About Money (The have-nots want it; the haves defend it)

- “Jeffrey Winters, a political-science professor at Northwestern University, said “Societies with significant wealth disparities are “inherently unstable.” The idea is that the **have-nots fight to claim** some resources for themselves while **the haves fight to defend** what they own, whether violently or more subtly. Thus, taboos around money—among haves and have-nots alike—exert a sort of stabilizing force, blurring how much people actually have and giving them one fewer reason to be upset with their place in society. “*The bubbles of denial that people operate within are sustained by taboos on talking about money, which in turn helps sustain the unequal society itself,*” Winters said.”

3. What Many Americans Think Would Happen If Their Income Was Made Public

- “If people were to publicly reveal their income, Caitland Zaloom said, “they’d be “exposing how they’re valued by their employer and how their contribution is valued even more broadly, by the community.” (See **bonus thought below**)

A. Income opens the discussion about how a person is valued by their employer

B. Income reveals how their contribution is valued and viewed by the community



Resource: Caitland Zaloom Author of *Indebted, How families make college work at any cost:*
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KUwX_fqj3e4

II. Three Strategies That Can Change Everything

1. We Should Teach Our Families

a. **Teach Your Family How to Love God Completely** (Deuteronomy 6:4-5)

- 4 Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 5 Love the Lord your God with all your **heart** and with all your **soul** and with all your **strength**.¹

b. **Teach Your Family Guidelines They Should Live By** (v6)

- 6 These commandments that I give you today are to be **on your hearts**.

c. **Teach Your Family in Casual Not Formal Environments** (v7-9)

- 7 **Impress** them on your children. **Talk** about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.
- 8 Tie them as **symbols** on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 9 Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

2. We Should Advise Our Families

a. **To Respect the trap of debt** and a commitment to make it short-term (Proverbs 6:1-5, NIV)

- My son, if you have **put up security for your neighbor**, if you have shaken hands in pledge for a stranger, 2 you have been trapped by what you said, ensnared by the words of your mouth. 3 So do this, my son, to free yourself, since you have fallen into your neighbor's hands: **Go—to the point of exhaustion**— and give your neighbor no rest!

Note: Proverbs 6:1-5, The Message

Dear friend, if you've gone into hock with your neighbor or locked yourself into a deal with a stranger, If you've impulsively promised the shirt off your back and now find yourself shivering out in the cold, Friend, **don't waste a minute, get yourself out of that mess. You're in that man's clutches! Go, put on a long face; act desperate. Don't procrastinate—there's no time to lose.** Run like a deer from the hunter, fly like a bird from the trapper!

b. **To Respect and be concerned for the poor** (Leviticus 25:35–43, NIV)

- 35 “**If any of your fellow Israelites become poor and are unable to support themselves** among you, help them as you would a foreigner and stranger, so they can continue to live among you. 36 **Do not take interest or any profit from them**, but fear your God, so that they may continue to live among you. 37 You must not lend them money at interest or sell them food at a profit. 38 I am the Lord your God, **who brought you out of Egypt** to give you the land of Canaan and to be your God. 39 “**If any of your fellow Israelites become poor and sell themselves to you**, do not make them work as slaves.

¹Heart (5:26) the innermost, then soul as synonymous with life, thus already more external than heart, (4:29) and then strength, which designates the still more outward effective proofs of the life. (Matt. 22:37; Luke 10:27; Mark 12:33). [Bib. Com.: “The specification is intended to include every faculty that can possibly come in question.” Alexander on Mark 12:29–31: “*There is no need of attempting any nice distinction between heart and soul and mind, the obvious design being to exhaust the one idea of the whole man.*” (A Commentary on the Holy Scriptures: Deuteronomy)



Note: God did not want them to create a system that enslaved people.

3. We Should Work to Free Our Families

- 40 They are to be treated as **hired workers** or **temporary residents** among you; they are to work for you until the Year of Jubilee. 41 Then they and their children are to be released, and **they will go back to their own clans and to the property of their ancestors.** 42 Because the Israelites are my servants, whom I brought out of Egypt, they must not be sold as slaves. 43 Do not rule over them ruthlessly but fear your God.
- A. Let them work off their debt (treat them like hired workers)
- B. Let them move beyond living with us (they are called temporary residents)

Note: There was a government plan in place called the year of Jubilee designed to free everyone every seven years from all debt.

- **THIS COUNTRY DOES NOT HAVE A YEAR OF JUBILEE**

Year of Jubilee Defined: Dictionary of Bible Themes

- Celebrated in the fiftieth year as the culmination of seven sabbatical years. During this year, property was restored, and Hebrew slaves were released. This year of liberation gave opportunity for a new start and is alluded to as a type of the Messianic Age.

Bonus Thought

In America, “asking someone what they earn is considered taboo because you are indirectly questioning their personal worth,” Chong writes in her book *Best Practice: Management Consulting and the Ethics of Financialization in China*. “By contrast, in China personal worth is not primarily indexed to financial worth, but rather one’s ‘quality’ (suzhi), the moral and ethical values that cannot be reduced to economic value.” (Atlantic Article, “continued)

Next Time: Balancing the Expected and Unexpected

Annual Review:

How Do You Live in a New World?

1. Be Properly Trained (You Need Good Home Training)
2. Manage Your Money (Know Your Financial Strategy)
3. Manage Your expectation (The Expected and Unexpected)