



FUND\$

Mutual FUNDS

The Point: It's Holding You back



Proverbs 22:7

- What stood out to you from this week's Point? (they can be funny, serious, stupid, or spiritual)
- In the first week of the FUND\$ Series we talked about how money and possessions are not ours, but God's. Last week we talked about how money and possessions won't satisfy and how we will most often continue to crave more even after we have attained what we wanted. This week, we heard Dave Ramsey talk about how debt is holding us back and the first steps to take to escape debt. Why are the truths taught in the first two weeks of this series critical to us even considering how to get out of debt?
- Did someone teach you that borrowing money was a good idea? What were some of the reasons that they gave you as to why you should borrow money?
- What kind of excuses do people use to convince themselves to borrow money?
- Do you think that debt is addictive? Why or why not? Would anyone be willing to share their personal experience of the vicious cycle of debt?

•**Read Proverbs 22:7.** What does that mean “the borrower is slave to the lender?” How does being in debt impact your life? Without using any names can you share a story of someone you know who’s life was torn apart by financial struggles? How susceptible are any of us to that?

•**Read Proverbs 6: 1-5.** What do these verses say about how you should respond to debt? (If you need a visual here is a low resolution video: <http://tinyurl.com/MC3Fund-3>) Dave Ramsey talked about being “Gazelle Intense” in relation to getting out of debt. How would you respond if you were a gazelle and you saw a cheetah coming? Why do you think it important to respond to debt the same way?

•In the video, Dave Ramsey gave five baby steps to take to getting out of debt. Does anyone remember what they were?

- ✓ Save Money (start with \$1,000 emergency fund)
- ✓ Quit borrowing more money
- ✓ Prayer works
- ✓ Sell Something
- ✓ Take on an extra job or overtime to eliminate debt

What are your thoughts or takeaways from each of these five steps?

•If we were to start a new standard of “keeping up with the Joneses” based on Biblical principle, what would that look like?

Thinking Outside the Box

If you were completely debt free, how would that change your life right now? What would look different?

Here is a challenge for us this week. Ask yourself and or your significant other this week what step (not steps) you can take to begin a journey towards financial freedom. Next week when we come back together, if you feel like sharing that with the group that would be great, but if you don't that is fine.

Please just take that first step or next step in that journey. Eliminating your debt can change your life drastically!

Proverbs 22:7 (NIV)

The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is slave to the lender.

Proverbs 6: 1-5 (NLT)

My child, if you have put up security for a friend's debt or agreed to guarantee the debt of a stranger— if you have trapped yourself by your agreement and are caught by what you said— follow my advice and save yourself, for you have placed yourself at your friend's mercy. Now swallow your pride; go and beg to have your name erased. Don't put it off; do it now! Don't rest until you do. Save yourself like a gazelle escaping from a hunter, like a bird fleeing from a net.

Proverbs 13:4 & 22 (CEV)

No matter how much you want, laziness won't help a bit, but hard work will reward you with more than enough.

If you obey God, you will have something to leave your grandchildren. If you don't obey God, those who live right will get what you leave.