

## Plan #5: Prepare a Budget That Plans for Generosity

### Things you might consider:

- Examine your spending over the last six months. Categorize where your money went and determine what your priorities have been.
- Consider ways to reduce spending.
- Consider ways to reduce debt and save more.
- Consider ways to increase generosity that are meaningful to you.

**Use this budget-planning tool to assist with financial planning and management in the new year.**

Expense	Actual % (Last 6 months)	Suggested % (New year)	Planned % (New year)
Charitable Giving		5-10%	
Debt Reduction		5-10%	
Saving/Investment		5-10%	
Housing		20-30%	
Utilities		8-10%	
Food		10-15%	
Transportation		10-15%	
Health		5-10%	
Clothing		2-5%	
Entertainment		5%	
Personal		5%	
Other		2%	

### Action Plans:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.



## ANNUAL FINANCIAL PLANNING

### Plan Now for This Year

The “Defying Gravity” sermon series examines the generous life, what it is, and why it can be so hard to experience. Many of us want to experience the significance of blessing others but feel trapped by past decisions and a society that bombards us with the messages of having more and better. The good news is that Jesus offers us a way to “defy gravity” and break free from the culture of more. One way we can do this is through good financial management and budget planning.

As part of the “Defying Gravity” series, we invite you to begin your financial planning now for the coming year. This guide is designed to help you get started with budget planning that will help you manage your finances for the year and lessen the burden of financial stress. Through careful financial planning, the generosity we long to experience can become a reality.

**Generosity doesn’t happen by accident.**

*Tell people who are rich at this time not to become egotistical and not to place their hope on their finances, which are uncertain. Instead, they need to hope in God, who richly provides everything for our enjoyment. Tell them to do good, to be rich in the good things they do, to be generous, and to share with others. When they do these things, they will save a treasure for themselves that is a good foundation for the future. That way they can take hold of what is truly life. (1 Timothy 6:17-19 CEB)*



## Plan #1: Live Simply

### Things you might consider:

- Consider your possessions and how many of them have become nothing more than personal space junk. Survey how much junk is sitting in storage bins and facilities.
- Rid yourself of personal space junk. There are many local organizations that accept clothing, small household goods, electronics, and other items.
- Identify what brings you real joy in life, and weed out the material items that are unused, broken, or not useful anymore in this season of your life.

### Action Plans:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

## Plan #2: Create Budget Priorities for Debt Reduction

### Things you might consider:

- Sign up for a financial planning program to learn how to reduce debt.
- Take an honest look at your total debt, develop a debt reduction plan, and track your progress by periodically reviewing your plan.
- Substantially reduce the use of credit cards by paying with cash or a debit card against a cash account.

### Action Plans:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

## Plan #3: Create a Budget for Saving

### Things you might consider:

- Review your current savings plan and evaluate the different savings vehicles you currently maintain, if any. Ask your bank or trusted financial advisor for ideas on saving.
- Pray for a clear vision of the difference between needs and wants. Postpone expenditures that fall into the “wants” category, such as the latest electronic gadget or automobile upgrade.
- Think about your current savings and investment strategy and how you can maximize your returns and minimize risk.
- Set short-term and long-term specific savings goals.

### Action Plans:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

## Plan #4: Plan Generosity

### Things you might consider:

- Where do you feel the gravity of possessions each day?
- Pray about ways God is calling you to make a difference in the world.
- Make a list of issues, organizations, or activities through which investment would bring joy to you and please God.
- Plan generosity and set numerical goals for the good you hope to do with your time and money. *Remember: Generosity doesn't happen by accident.*

### Action Plans:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.