KINGDOM FAMILY MINISTRY
Stronger Families. Stronger Communities.

Financial Conversations Every Married Couple Should Have

Kingdom Family Ministry | Marriage & Finances | Checklist

■ Use this checklist together — not as a test, but as a starting point for honest conversation. Check off what you have already discussed. Circle anything that still needs a conversation. You do not need to cover everything in one sitting. Work through it section by section.

■ INCOME & EVERYDAY MONEY

- [ ] We know each other's exact take-home income.
  Include all sources — salary, side income, tips, benefits.
- [ ] We have agreed on who manages the day-to-day bills.
- [ ] We have decided whether to use joint accounts, separate accounts, or both.
  Neither choice is wrong — what matters is that you both agree.
- [ ] We have a monthly budget we both understand and follow.
- [ ] We review our spending together at least once a month.
- [ ] We have agreed on a dollar amount either spouse can spend without checking in first.
  'Spending threshold' — common amounts are $50–$200 depending on income.

■ SAVINGS & EMERGENCY FUND

- [ ] We have an emergency fund with at least $500.
  Goal: work toward 3–6 months of expenses.
- [ ] We have agreed on our savings goal for this year.
- [ ] We know where our savings accounts are and both have access.
- [ ] We have discussed retirement savings and are contributing consistently.
- [ ] We have a plan for major upcoming expenses.
  Car, home repairs, medical, education, etc.

■ DEBT & CREDIT

- [ ] We have shared a full picture of all debt we each carry.
  Credit cards, student loans, car loans, medical, personal loans.
- [ ] We have a plan for paying off our debt and agree on the approach.
  Highest interest first (avalanche) or smallest balance first (snowball).
- [ ] We have both reviewed our credit reports in the past 12 months.
  Free at AnnualCreditReport.com — one per bureau per year.
- [ ] We know each other's credit scores and are working to improve them.
- [ ] We do not open new credit accounts without discussing it first.

■ BIG FINANCIAL DECISIONS

- [ ] We have agreed on our short-term financial goals (next 1–2 years).
- [ ] We have agreed on our long-term financial goals (5–10 years).
  Home ownership, education, retirement, business, generosity.
- [ ] We have discussed what we would do if one of us lost our job.
- [ ] We have or have discussed creating a will or basic estate plan.
  Who would care for children? Where do assets go?
- [ ] We have agreed on how much we give — to church, charity, or family in need.

- ■ We have discussed life insurance and whether our coverage is adequate.

■ MONEY HABITS & VALUES

- ■ We have talked about how we each grew up around money.
  Our upbringing shapes how we spend, save, and feel about financial risk.
- ■ We have identified our biggest financial fear as a couple.
- ■ We have identified our biggest financial goal as a couple.
- ■ We have agreed on how to handle financial disagreements when they arise.
- ■ We have scheduled a regular 'money date' to review finances together.
  Monthly works well. Same day, same time.

OUR NEXT STEPS — FILL THIS IN TOGETHER

The money topic we most need to talk about:	Our #1 financial goal as a couple right now:	Our next 'money date' is scheduled for:
______________________	______________________	______________________

■ **KFM Marriage Support Program** — Free counseling assistance for eligible couples in Montgomery County and North Harris County.

kingdomfamilyministry.org/marriagesupportprogram

⌖ FAITH & ENCOURAGEMENT

“Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans.” — Proverbs 16:3 (NIV)

Money is one of the most common sources of conflict in marriage — and one of the greatest opportunities to build trust. When couples talk openly and honestly about finances, they are not just managing money. They are honoring each other, building a shared future, and practicing the kind of faithfulness God calls us to.

My Prayer / Reflection

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My Action Step This Week

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