

12 Steps to Financial Freedom

Level III—Get Ahead

WEEK 9—STEP 9
Maintain The Focus



Michelangelo “The Slaves”



“The Atlas”

12 Steps to Financial Freedom

Step 9: Maintain The Focus

The goal for this session is to take meaningful steps toward your financial goals. By now, you'll have a little extra cash to save or spend. As such, it is imperative that you avoid reverting back to old spending habits by consistently maintaining dfree® principles. However because you have developed healthier spending habits; reinforcing your efforts takes on a different form:

- **dfree® Victories**—Celebrate your financial accomplishments on this journey.
- **dfree® Sundays**—Set every fourth Sunday aside for testimonies.
- **Financial Freedom**—Remain focused on achieving your long term goals for achieving Financial Freedom.

Discussion Points:

When Greed Becomes “Good”/Page 136—Everyone wants more money.

I’m Not a Doctor, But . . ./Page 139—Fantasy as Reality.

Flight of Fantasy/Page 141—Prosperity the god of the ages.

Emancipation Celebration/Page 142—Taking this dfree® thing too far!

12 Steps to Financial Freedom

AlRight TV: “dfree® to be Free”



MAINTAIN THE FOCUS Episode 9

Source: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MAf3a814w_s

12 Steps to Financial Freedom

Learning Topics

- I. Life Situation—Claude & Grace
 - Don't Be Fooled
- II. Uncovering the Chains
 - Avoiding appealing offers
 - Increasing Income
- III. Beginning to Break and Eliminate the Financial Chains
 - Claude & Grace—Cheap Souvenirs
- IV. Victory Story—D.V. Never co-sign for someone.
- V. Commitments and Assignment
 - Increasing Income, Savings & Investing
 - Billion Dollar Challenge's Website
 - Update Financial Statement
 - 7 Financial Minutes a Day!
- VI. Home Assignments
 - Read Chapter 10: Invest in Others

12 STEPS TO FINANCIAL FREEDOM

dfree® Lifestyle LEVEL THREE – GET AHEAD STEP NINE – MAINTAIN THE FOCUS

Opening prayer: "Dear God, protect me from distractions that would take my eyes off You and Your will for my life. Amen."

Response: I will keep my eyes on the prize.

LIFE SITUATION – READ AND ANSWER THE QUESTION(S) BELOW: Don't Be Fooled

Today was a special day for the family. They had planned a fun vacation for three days and two nights. The travel agent promised they would enjoy themselves and have a wonderful time. Well, everyone saved so they could have spending money and be able to eat a wonderful dinner together at least once. The island looked like paradise, but when the family arrived at the hotel, things began to change. The hotel rooms were not clean and the lounge area was not the prettiest, but they thought they could tolerate it. Once the rooms were cleaned, they could unpack and head to the beach.

However, the warm, white sands shown in the virtual tour and in the brochure were not visible. Plus, they had paid an extra \$700 for excursions and evening events. Grace thought they had wasted their money and Claude was planning to sue the travel company for false advertisement. The kids decided to spend as much time on the beach as possible and go souvenir shopping since the fun events scheduled were cancelled. The family was disappointed, but happy they were all together. As everyone settled in, Stacey created some games they could all play and searched online for local carnivals and street shows. Although they did not have all the amenities they wanted, they made the vacation work.

What advice can you give Claude and Grace on planning for future vacations or other events? Do you think they spent money that was not in their budget plan?

II. UNCOVERING THE CHAINS

Our session for today is to maintain focus. Therefore, the goal of this session is to take meaningful steps toward your financial goals.

Memory Verse: "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money" (Matthew 6:24, NIV).

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dfree® Strategic Financial Growth Planner

SAY YES TO NO DEBT: Strategic Financial Growth Plan

Name: **Claude and Grace Smith** Date Started: **2/20/16** Debt Free Date: **2/20/19**

Personal Mission Statement:
To use our gifts and expertise to empower others to achieve Financial Freedom and retire in Florida

Financial Position: **\$30K in debt and own a home** GAP: **-\$965,000.00** Financial Goal: **\$935,000.00**

WHAT? GROWTH GOAL	HOW? ACTION STEPS	BY WHEN? SPECIFIC DATES	BY WHOM? RESPONSIBILITY	MEASUREMENT OF SUCCESS	IMPACT
Level I: GET STARTED	1. Admit the Problem Deficit—My expenses exceeds my income				
	2. Address the Mess Confused Spending—Squandering Resources				
	3. Adjust the Attitude Inventory of Expenditures—Eliminate everything that doesn't align with our long-term goals.				
Level II: GET CONTROL	4. Start the Plan Spending Plan vs. Budget—Be more proactive, intentional and aggressive about our Financial Wellness.				
	5. Steer the Power Make Power Payments—Sacrifice today's fleeting pleasures, focus on necessities to gain future security!				
	6. Set the Timer Rule of 72—Leverage financial formulas and interest rates to double savings and investments.				
Level III: GET AHEAD	7. Maximize the Margin Honor System—Get an Accountability Buddy, join an Investment Club and hire a Financial Consultant.				
	8. Minimize the Stress Planning Wills/Estate—Write my Will and purchase more insurance if I need it.				
	9. Maintain the Focus dfree® Sundays—Share my testimony in Church this Sunday to inspire others to become dfree®.				
Level IV: GIVE BACK	10. Invest in Others				
	11. Ignite dfree® Living				
	12. Impact the Culture				

TRAINER FEEDBACK (include date)

I reaffirm my pledge to:

- Apply God's strategy for managing my money.
- Keep my expenses below my income.
- Pay my bills on time.
- Invest in assets that grow in value.
- Contribute to my Church and its ministries..

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Reinforcement

As a valued member of the dfree® Lifestyle Campaign, you will have the ability to take advantage of the following resources:

- Annual dfree® Conferences
- Semi-Annual Coastal Meetings
- Quarterly Regional Conferences
- Monthly dfree® Trainer Calls
- Weekly Virtual Meetings
- Daily access to the Billion Dollar Challenge on-line tool.

These resources are strategically designed to help you **achieve, maintain, and sustain** your goals for acquiring Economic Freedom

The screenshot displays the 'Billion Dollar Challenge' website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the logo, 'MY DASHBOARD', 'JUMP TO', 'FAQ', and a user profile for 'Willie Mae Veasy' with a 'Log Out' button. Below the navigation bar, a message states 'Please complete a debt plan.' The main heading is 'My Debt Plan', followed by a subtext: 'You are more likely to pay down your debt if you have a plan.' and instructions: 'Enter your goal of how much debt you would like to pay off, the type of debt, and by what date.' A disclaimer notes: '*Your debt plan does not account for interest. Only enter the amount you would like to pay off toward your principal balance. Principal means amount of debt owed minus the interest.' The form contains four identical sections for different debt types: Mortgage, Auto, Visa, and Student Loan. Each section has fields for 'I have \$', 'of', 'debt. My goal is to pay \$', 'to my principal by', and 'I can achieve this by paying \$ every week'. There are 'Add' and 'Save' buttons at the bottom of the form, and a 'Remove' button next to each section. At the bottom of the page, there is a logo for 'Sun Life Financial' and a banner stating 'PROUD SPONSOR OF THE BILLION DOLLAR CHALLENGE'.

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Milestones:

Now that you have completed **Level III—Get Ahead**, you possess all the knowledge necessarily to set yourself up for sustained financial success. Please make sure that you continue to schedule daily and weekly Money Management Moments on your calendar to track and maintain your progress. Consistency is and follow-through are everything!

By now, you will have mastered the following financial techniques and habits:

Behavior	Accomplishments	Results
Tracking spending	Save more money	Lower debt.
Identify insurance requirements	Buy Insurance Estate Planning/Will	Establish brain trust and financial advisory board
Regularly update Financial Statements and/or Billion Dollar Challenge website	Plan for retirement	Increased income and savings

12 Steps to Financial Freedom

Level III—Get Ahead—CONCLUDED

The goal of this third level is to complete a total financial plan and prepare for financial self-sufficiency.

Learning Goals

- Explores basic aspects of the Stock Market and considers investment options and actions.
- Advance savings and investing efforts to build meaningful wealth.
- Buying Insurance, Planning Wills/Estates.
- Ensuring ongoing Accountability and Celebration Your Success.



“Sell everything your have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” -**Luke 18:22**

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Next Steps:

To help you reinforce the lessons you've learned today and prepare for next week's dfree® Lifestyle Campaign session, we ask that you complete the following task prior to attending Step 10: Invest In Others:

- Read: Chapter 10 Invest In Others in *Say Yes To No Debt* book Pages 149—160
- Watch: **Use to be Broke—Predatory Lending.**
(Source: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nrYmQkwG1oc>)
- Finish: V Commitments & Assignments 1—7 in DFL workbook Pages 70-76
- Complete: VI Home Assignment in DFL workbook Page 76
- Attend: Next week's session **10/25/2017 @ 7:00PM**