

Key Financial Concept:

Financial Freedom Increasing the spiritual, political, social, and economic strength of individuals or communities, which results in the newly “Economically Empowered” developing confidence in their own capacities to ensure and sustain a higher standard of living for themselves and future generations.

12 Steps to Financial Freedom

Level I—Get Started

WEEK 2—STEP 2 **Address The Mess**

Opening Prayer:

"Dear God, I appreciate the fact that every new day You provide me an opportunity to experience new growth. Thank You for today and for this new opportunity. Amen."

12 Steps to Financial Freedom

Step 2: Address the Mess

We have become a Nation that self medicates with more of what we don't need or could ever possibly use because of the most costly types of spending habits:

- **Compensatory**—Purchasing things to fill a void of insecurity and/or deficiency.
- **Conspicuous**—Purchasing things to show off.
- **Confused**—Wasting money due to Financial Illiteracy.

Discussion Points

Culture Shock—What is our relationship to it. (Pg 46-48)
You Are What You Buy—How does our spending and reaction to spending. (Pg 48-49)
The Cost of Cheap—How does it affect our confidence and success. (Pg 49-50)
Fake It 'till You Make It—How does it affect our "The Joneses" as a cultural priority. (Pg 51-42)
Not Getting Our Money's Worth—How does it affect our commitment to wise spending. (Pg 54-54)
Treasure Hunt—Gathering data for your first Financial Snapshot. (Page 54-58)

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AlRight TV: “dfree® to be Free”



ADDRESS THE MESS Episode 2

Source: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dVcjC4u5g7E>

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Statistically Speaking:

Even before our most recent economic downturn, we were aware of the problem and yet continued to ignore it. Consider these additional data points on credit card debt as reported by Money-Zine.com:

- In 2015 the average household had \$130,922 in debt/\$15,762 is Credit Card debt.
- Fifty-one percent of the population has at least two credit cards (creditcard.com).
- People spend 12% - 18% more when using credit cards than using cash (Dunn and Bradstreet).
 - What are some reasons why people should review their credit score?
 - Have you checked your score lately? Why or why not?

Despite the recognition of a recession in October 2010, the national hole of debt only grew deeper.

Source: <http://www.nerdwallet.com/blog/credit-card-data/average-credit-card-debt-household/>

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So What?

We must learn to replace the harmful ingredients in the culture of debt with life-giving agents of clarity, freedom, and responsibility; or we'll become trapped in a reoccurring cycle of over payments.

So what happens when we purchase lunch for \$10.00 on a card versus paying cash or bringing our own lunch?

Frequency	Charge	Cash	Bring Lunch
Once A Week	-\$10.00	-\$10.00	-\$4.00
Once A Week For A Year	-\$575.00 <i>(making no payments)</i>	-\$520.00	-\$208.00 <i>(save \$318)</i>

We must stop making other people rich at our expense!

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Learning Topics

- I. Life Situation: **Claude & Grace**
 - Frustrated and Tired
- II. Uncovering the Chains
 - Addressing our mess and barriers
 - Getting financially organized
- III. Beginning to Break and Eliminate the Financial Chains
 - Claude & Grace honest conversation about money
- IV. Commitments and Assignment
 - Track and translate advertisements
 - Avoiding bad influences
 - Financial snapshot
- V. Home Assignments
 - Read Chapter 3 Adjust the Attitude

12 STEPS TO FINANCIAL FREEDOM

dfree® Lifestyle LEVEL ONE – GET STARTED STEP TWO – ADDRESS THE MESS

Opening prayer: "Dear God, I appreciate the fact that every new day You provide gives me an opportunity to experience new growth. Thank You for today and for this new opportunity. Amen."

Response: If it is to be, it is up to me.

LIFE SITUATION – READ AND ANSWER THE QUESTION(S) BELOW: Frustrated and Tired

Another baby, another year, and more bills. Life was in full swing with no semester breaks. Grace was thankful and content being a mom and wife. Yet, she was tired of barely making ends meet. Claude did not seem as worried, Grace thought. They talked about their financial problems and other issues that worried them because of the finances, but Claude would always say, "Everything is going to be alright." Grace would always ask when and how. Claude would say he had things under control. They were both tired and frustrated from talking about this stuff, so they would leave the conversations feeling bad, but not having any real solutions. Grace's parents, Douglass and Harriett, noticed that she was withdrawn and quiet at times. They would ask her if something was wrong. Grace would smile and say, "I'm making it."

Grace's parents were concerned. Suggest how they can support Grace. What should Claude and Grace do about their situation?

II. UNCOVERING THE CHAINS

Our session today is about barriers. The goal of this session is to address our financial mess by addressing the barriers we have and by getting financially organized.

Memory Verse: "There is a way that seems right to man, but in the end it leads to death" (Proverbs 14:12, NIV).

Reflect and share with someone why you think Solomon said this. Are his words true in your life today and how?

12 Steps to Financial Freedom

dfree® Strategic Financial Growth Planner

SAY YES TO NO DEBT: Strategic Financial Growth Plan

Name: Claude & 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? <i>GROWTH GOAL</i>	HOW? <i>ACTION STEPS</i>	BY WHEN? <i>SPECIFIC DATES</i>	BY WHOM? <i>RESPONSIBILITY</i>	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				
Level II: GET CONTROL	4. Start the Plan				
	5. Steer the Power				
	6. Set the Timer				
Level III: GET AHEAD	7. Maximize the Margin				
	8. Minimize the Stress				
	9. Maintain the Focus				
Level IV: GIVE BACK	10. Invest in Others				
	11. Ignite dfree® Living				
	12. Impact the Culture				

TRAINER FEEDBACK (include date)

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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 3: Adjust the Attitude:

- Read: Chapter 3 Adjust the Attitude in *Say Yes To No Debt* book Pages 59—69
- Watch: **Buster Soaries - Breaking Free From Financial Slavery, CBN 700 Club**
 - https://youtu.be/KiGKVjOV0_s
- Finish: IV Commitments 1—7 in DFL workbook Pages 16-23
- Complete: VI Home Assignment in DFL workbook Page 23
- Attend: Next week's session **July 12 @ 7:00**

Closing Prayer:

"God, I can feel myself getting stronger, getting better, and getting closer to where I need to be. My faith in You is causing me to take actions that will make me a better me. Amen."