

Money autobiography



Money autobiography questions

Formative Questions

- What is your earliest memory of money?
- What is your happiest memory in connection with money?
- What is your unhappiest money memory? Did you feel rich, poor, or neither growing up? Did you worry about money when you were a child? A teenager?
- What attitudes did your parents and other family members have about money?
- Where did your own money come from? (Did you work, receive an allowance, have your parents buy you things?)
- Who governed how you related to money; that is, how you spent money, saved money, gave money to charity or church?

Value questions

- Are you a spender or a saver?
- In what ways can you be generous? In what ways can you be stingy?
- Although money can't buy happiness, what are some of the things money can buy that bring you happiness?
- What do you like best about money? What do you like least about money?
- What things in life are worth more than money? Does your lifestyle, what you do with your money, tell the same story. Does it show that these things are more important?
- How has your gender influenced your thinking about money? What differences do you observe in the way men and women relate to money?
- Which of the following words best communicate your attitudes and feelings about money? Why do you think that is?
power security hope love pleasure prestige dirty value
anxiety identity a tool freedom protection evil comfort
- Reflect on times when you have given to meet the needs of another. How did you feel?
Reflect on times when you were on the receiving end of a gift. How did you feel?

Management Questions

- Would you say you are a good manager of money? In what ways are you a poor manager of money?
- How do you feel about talking about your finances with other people? Why do you feel this way?
- Do you use credit cards? What is your attitude to credit cards? Is it very different from how your parents handled money?

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- Is giving to church and charity important to you? How do you decide how much to give? How do you decide where to give?
- Do you have a personal budget? Is it helpful to have one and if so how does it help? How do you make decisions about what to spend, what to save, and what to give?
- What are your greatest financial concerns? How have you made decisions concerning retirement, insurance, drafting a will, and so on? If not what are our anxieties about doing these things or do we just not get around to it?

Lifestyle Questions

- The USA gives grants of \$1.4billion for AIDS support to 14 poor countries; debt repayments to the West by those same countries are over \$9 billion. Two-thirds of the earth's population lives below the U.S. poverty line. How does this affect our attitudes toward money?
- How do you feel when people approach you for money on the street? How do you feel when you receive phone solicitations for charitable contributions?
- In what ways does your relationship with money affect your faith? In what ways does your faith affect your relationship with money?
- What kind of legacy would you like to leave when you die? Of your worldly possessions, what would you leave to whom and why?
- One strong theme of both Jewish and Christian faith is that wealth is given for the common good of the whole community. What does this mean to you? Does anyone other than you have a legitimate claim to your money and possessions?
- In what ways do you feel your relationship with money is a spiritual issue? What does it mean to you to be a good steward?

Giving questions

(Please note that these giving questions are not sourced from Dan R Dick of the United Methodist Church but have been produced locally for the Diocese of Liverpool.)

When you think about giving to the church what do you automatically think of?

- What was your attitude to giving five years ago? What questions did you have then? How have things changed in the last five years?
- Is giving to the church and Christian or other charities a priority for you when you decide on how to spend your money?
- Assuming that you give to church and other charities, how do you decide what to give to which charity? Is the church a top priority as you decide?
- People sometimes say that they give their time and talents, so giving money is not so important. Is this how you feel?
- Do you plan your giving through weekly envelopes? Have you considered a standing order - *but only if that is how you deal with all your other important financial matters?*
- Where would you like to be in your giving this time next year? What changes would you like to see? Has this course helped you to think more clearly and to take some action about giving?