



Wisdom Worth Having - Personal Finance Curriculum **Debt Management and Leverage** (Ages 13+)

Program Overview

This course teaches students to understand debt biblically and practically. While warning strongly against destructive debt, it also explores the wise and limited use of good debt for building wealth and advancing goals.

Core Goals:

- Understand the dangers and slavery of debt.
- Learn biblical principles on borrowing and lending.
- Distinguish between good debt and bad debt.
- Develop strategies for getting out of debt quickly.
- Make wise decisions about using leverage responsibly.

Curriculum Outline

Quarter 1: The Biblical View of Debt

- What the Bible Says About Debt and Surety
- The Spiritual and Practical Dangers of Debt
- Stories and Examples of Debt Slavery
- The Freedom of Being Debt-Free
- Developing a Healthy Fear of Debt

Project: Research and present real-life examples of the impact of debt.

Quarter 2: Types of Debt and Decision Making

- Consumer Debt vs Asset-Building Debt
- Understanding Interest Rates and Compound Costs
- Good Debt Examples (Mortgages, Business Loans, Education)
- Evaluating When Debt Makes Sense
- Risk Assessment Before Borrowing

Project: Analyze different debt scenarios and recommend whether to borrow or not.

Quarter 3: Getting Out of Debt

- Debt Snowball and Debt Avalanche Methods
- Creating Aggressive Payoff Plans
- Increasing Income and Cutting Expenses to Kill Debt
- Dealing with Credit Cards and Loans
- Staying Motivated During the Debt-Free Journey

Project: Create a complete payoff plan for a hypothetical or personal debt situation.

Quarter 4: Wise Leverage and Debt-Free Living

- Strategic Use of Good Debt for Wealth Building
- Mortgage Decisions and Home Buying
- Avoiding New Debt After Becoming Debt-Free
- Building Wealth Without Relying on Debt
- Leaving a Legacy of Financial Wisdom

Capstone Project: Develop a personal debt philosophy and long-term strategy that includes prevention, payoff plans, and guidelines for any future borrowing, supported by biblical principles.