

TALKING ABOUT MONEY

In all marriages, couples have to resolve issues related to attitudes and decisions about money. You may find it helpful to participate in the following exercise and come to a better understanding of how each of you looks at your money matters.

Spouses should answer questions separately, compare each other's answers, and talk about them. The similarities and differences that turn up can spark a discussion of family money attitudes and practices.

1. If you received \$5,000 tax-free, what would you do with it?

2. If you had to make a major cut in your current spending, what area would you cut first?

3. Do you agree (A) or disagree (D) with the following statements? Circle your response.
A D I'm basically too tight with money.
A D My spouse is basically too tight with money.
A D Equality in family financial decisions is important to me.
A D I feel good about the way financial decisions are made in my family.
A D Sometimes I buy things I don't need just because they're on sale.
A D I believe in enjoying and letting tomorrow worry about itself.

4. I'd like to see us spend less money on _____
and see more dollars go for _____.

5. What money problem is the most frequent cause of arguments for us?

6. What was the most sensible thing we have done with money since we were married?
The most foolish?

7. Do you feel that each of you makes responsible decisions about credit purchases?

8. How satisfied are you with the division of responsibility between the two of you in handling money matters?