**Family Budget Template**

**Monthly Take Home Income(s)**

 Income 1:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Income 2:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 **TOTAL INCOME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Monthly Expenses**

Housing (rent or mortgage) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Utilities \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone(s) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Debts: (Car, Student Loan, Credit Card, etc)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Cars (gas and maintenance) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Insurance (health, car, home, life) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Groceries \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Giving (church and elsewhere) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Cable, internet, gym, other subscriptions\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Eating out, shopping, coffee and other fun\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Savings, gifts, child support, daycare \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Total Expenses**

**Surplus/Deficit (Income — Expenses) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Podcast suggestions for this week:**

* NPR Life Kit: 7 Tips to Help Get You Out of Debt—26 min. Getting out of debt isn’t easy, but it is possible! Here are some ways to a freed life.
* NPR Life Kit: How to Start a Budget—21 min. Budgets don’t seem exciting, but they can be a tool for you to prioritize what you value!
* Pete the Planner: 5 Money Conversations to Have with your Partner—54 min. If you’re in a relationship, you need to be on the same page. This not only will cover topics of conversation but how to do those best.

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**Budgeting Wisdom**

If your budget is out of whack consider the classic 50/30/20 method. 50% of to essentials, 30% to what you want and 20% to savings and giving.

Consider your lowest income and highest expenses when budgeting.

If you are running a deficit, it’s time to minimize your expenses.

Have you considered the envelop method? At the beginning of the month out for your budgeted amounts and only pay in cash for such purchases. When you’re out of cash, you’re done for the month.

Savings shouldn’t be an afterthought, but a real part of your budget.

Cook meals that can be eaten through the week—saving time, money and it’s much healthier than fast food.

Consider buying certain things which are reusable or secondhand. Don’t buy water, bring a water bottle with you. Don’t buy paper towels, get some washcloths and cloth napkins.

Use our great library, full of books, CDs and movies…for FREE!

Save utility costs…do an energy audit and use Energy Star appliances.

**Top Ten Things Americans Waste Their Money On**

 \*\*according to daveramsey.com

1. Credit card interest 6. Speedy shipping
2. Deal websites 7. Fancy baby clothes
3. Appetizers 8. Unused gym membership
4. ATM fees 9. Premium cable
5. Overdraft fees 10. Daily coffee trips

There’s nothing “sinful” about these things, but, if you find a good chunk of your budget devoted to stuff like this, ask yourself: *How much joy do I get from this? How can I transform my habits to spend time and money on stuff that will bring myself and others joy? How can I share the joy I find?*

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