

Personal discussion: Personal finance

Important tip #1: Have fun! **Important tip #2:** Listen respectfully. **Tip #3:** It's okay if you don't have time to do ALL the questions.

Discussion questions

1. What was your favourite source today? Why did you like it?
2. Did you learn something new about money and happiness in the Forbes article? Was there something that surprised you?
3. The article talked about a money happiness paradox: *Having* money seems to be good for personal happiness, so it would make logical sense to *want* money, but *wanting* money seems to be bad for personal happiness. Does that affect how we should think of our money goals?
4. Dave Ramsey talks about the three money skills: spending, saving, and giving. What do you think of this idea? What do you think a good balance is at your age? At your parents' age?
5. Do you think our society values the three "money skills" equally?
6. Vicki Robin talks about financial freedom. She doesn't want you to be rich. She wants you to be free. If you think of your own financial goals, what is it about? Is it about freedom, like her? Is it more about enjoying life, like Dave Ramsey talks about? Is it something else, like safety?
7. Vicki Robin seems to think we are too materialistic. She wants you to be free from consumer culture. Do you think we are too materialistic? In your current life, how much of what you buy is driven by your real, physical needs, versus materialistic wants and desires?
8. Vicki also tried to give you a four-step plan for financial independence. Do you find this idea of having a plan like that useful, or do you prefer to wing it, in terms of money?
9. Vicki talked about tracking your expenses using your banking website. Are there apps like that that you currently use to help you with your finances?
10. Michael Norton mentions that the biggest category of stuff that we spend on is for ourselves, even though this spending has no correlation with how happy we are in our lives. In your own experience, does it seem true that spending on experiences or gifts is better for happiness than spending on stuff for ourselves?
11. Did anything mentioned today stand out as a "tip" to help you manage your finances?
12. Growing up, did your parents seem to want to educate you about money and finances?