

Budget, Borrow, Build: Smarter Money Management

Presented By: Philip Brown

Meet Your Presenter – Philip Brown

- From Denham Springs, Louisiana and a proud graduate of Southeastern Louisiana University – Lion Up!
- Over 8 years of accounting/finance experience:
 - Goldman Sachs
 - Hillwood, A Perot Company
 - Public Accounting
- Passionate about helping others navigate and make steps towards financial freedom

Today's Agenda

- Understanding Financial Stewardship
- Using Credit Wisely
- Building for the Future
- Faith over Fear
- Practical Tools & Resources
- Reflection & Action Steps
- Q&A

What is Financial Stewardship?

- **Stewardship** = Managing God's resources wisely
- **3 Core Principles:**
 1. Earn faithfully
 2. Spend wisely
 3. Save diligently

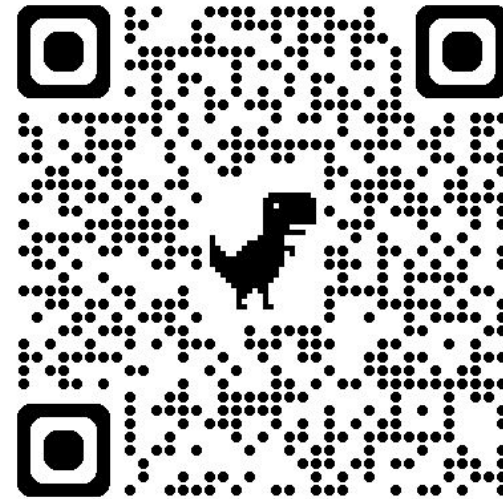
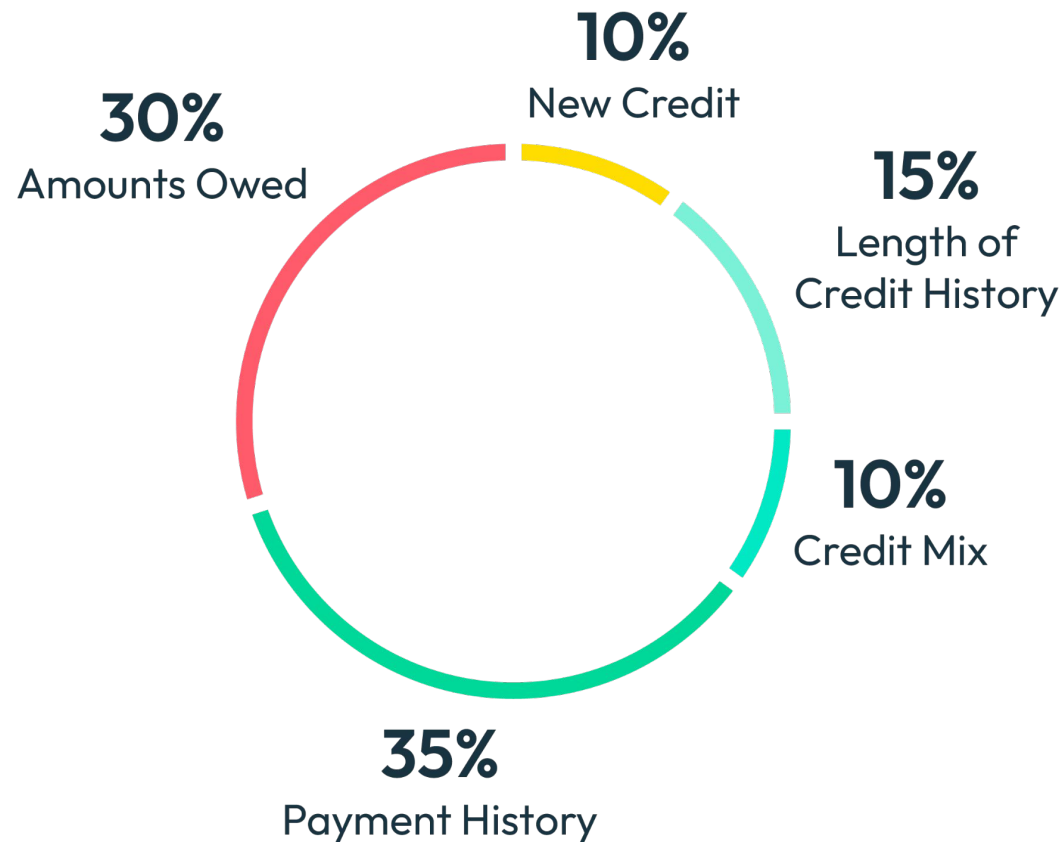
Scripture: Psalms 24:1: The earth and everything in it, the world and its inhabitants, belong to the Lord

Using Credit Wisely

- Credit is a tool – not a trap.
- **Good Debt:** Investments, assets, business growth.
- **Bad Debt:** Consumer debt, impulse purchases.
- Keep utilization under 30%
- Always pay on time – do not use the card unless you have the funds to pay for the entire transaction
- **Check credit reports periodically**
 - Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion

What Makes Up A Credit Score?

FICO SCORE



How Interest Works

- If someone buys a \$1,000 item on a credit card with 22% interest and only pays the minimum, they may end up paying over \$1,300 before it's paid off.
- Most of that extra \$300 is interest - money that did not build wealth or value.
- Interest grows when we delay payments, but it shrinks when we pay more than the minimum, pay early, or avoid carrying balances
- The first step to avoid getting into credit card debt is to understand how interest works!

Example: High Income, High Payment — The Hidden Trap

- Alex earns **\$150,000 a year** (\$12,500/month).
- He buys a luxury SUV for **\$90,000** with little money down.
- The monthly payment is **\$1,450** for 72 months.
 - **Income:** \$12,500/month
 - **Car payment:** \$1,450/month
 - **Insurance:** \$250/month
 - **Maintenance & fuel:** \$300/month
 - **Total car cost:** \$2,000/month
- This is 16% of his monthly income — just for his vehicle.
- Even though he earns a high salary, the oversized car payment reduces savings, delays investing, and increases financial stress.
- **High income doesn't guarantee financial freedom — disciplined spending does.**

Building for The Future

- Be intentional with every dollar
- Save & invest with purpose
- Protect yourself with an emergency fund (**3 – 6 Months**)
- Build for the future, not just today
 - Start small and focus on short-term goals to lead to long term success
- Prioritize long-term peace over short-term pleasure
- Make decisions that honor God and your financial goals
- *Scripture: Proverbs 21:5 — “The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance.”*

Example: Steps to Leaps

- Jalen earns \$3,800 a month and makes a simple plan to build his future.
 - He sets aside \$150 each month into savings and \$100 into an investment account.
- **Monthly savings: \$150**
- **Monthly investing: \$150**
- **Total future-building amount: \$300/month**
- After one year, he saves **\$1,800** and invests **\$1,800**
- After five years, he builds over **\$18,000** toward his future (not including investment growth).
- **Small, consistent steps add up over time.**
- Building the future doesn't require big money — just commitment and patience.

Faith over Fear

- Trust God with your financial journey — **He is your source, not your salary**
- Let faith guide your decisions, not fear, pressure, or panic
- Take one day at a time and trust the process
- Seek God's wisdom before taking financial action
- Pray first, then plan with clarity and peace
- Remember that God blesses consistency, discipline, and stewardship

Practical Tools & Resources – Part 1

- Start with what you have — small steps create big change
- Track your net worth, even if it's negative
 - $\text{Assets} - \text{Liabilities} = \text{Net Worth}$
- Give every dollar a purpose
- Set one financial goal each month
- Build healthy money boundaries
- Use the 48-hour rule to avoid impulse spending
- Run your own financial race — avoid comparison

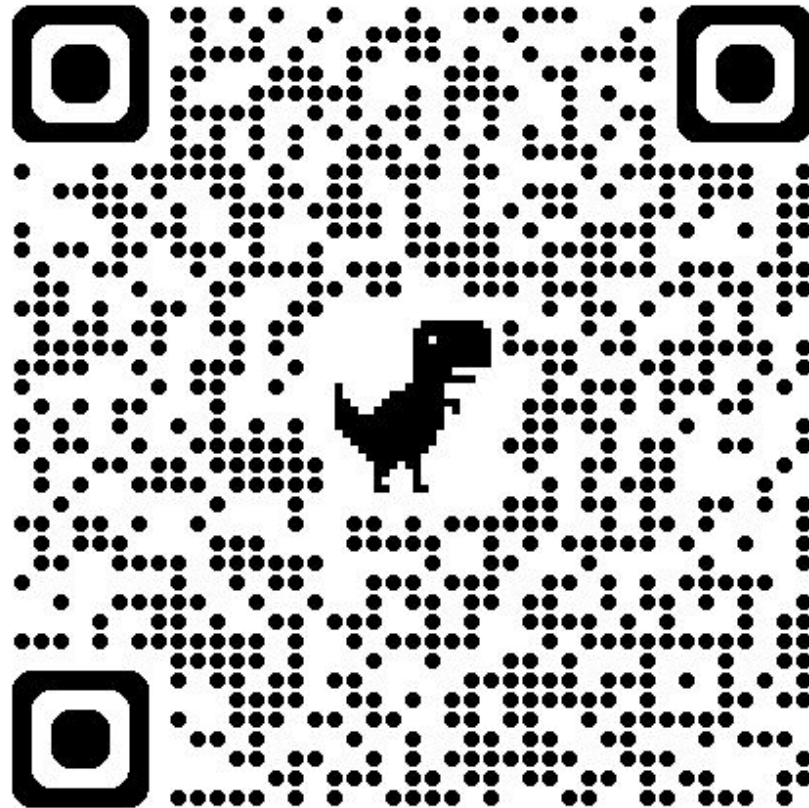
Practical Tools & Resources – Part 2

- Prepare for irregular expenses with intentional sinking funds
- Create a small “Blessing Fund” to give as God leads
- Remove spending temptations — unsubscribe from retail emails
- Let your cash flow guide your decisions, not your credit limit
- **Protect your peace** — financial stress affects your whole life
- Invite accountability from a trusted friend, spouse, or mentor
- **Pray regularly** over your finances for wisdom, discipline, and clarity

Reflection & Action

- Review your recent spending and identify one habit to improve
 - Review your budget weekly until you have a grasp of your finances
- Check your credit score and note one action to raise it
- Choose one savings goal and automate a contribution toward it
- Take one step this week that moves you closer to financial peace
 - Always strive to make progress every single day!

Budget Template QR Code



Q&A

Any questions or comments?