


LET'S TALK ABOUT MONEY

Here are some questions to consider for discussion.

- 💰 In what ways are you and your significant other most alike when it comes to money?
- 💰 In what ways are you and your significant other most different when it comes to money?
- 💰 What are your strengths in managing money? Discuss how you can capitalize on each other's strengths.
- 💰 What are your weaknesses in managing money? Discuss how you can support each other.
- 💰 What will be your greatest challenges when it comes to money? Discuss ideas about how to overcome those challenges.

Approach these discussions with a calm and very matter-of-fact attitude. Create common goals together and continue to understand and appreciate your differences as complements to one another. Minimize the potential impact of any weaknesses and play to your strengths.

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Discussions about money can be stressful, and many marriages and partnerships have felt the pains of this difficult topic. It is the communication that is difficult; the money itself is merely a tool by which we can accomplish important goals in life. To provide food and a home for family, to support education for children, to provide for the future, or to give back to the community. These goals and the values upon which they are based can vary from person to person. Understanding how to communicate and understanding each other's differences in a relationship can help guide a healthy discussion that accomplishes common goals.

A marriage is a partnership in which two people work toward a common goal, but likely from different perspectives. Indeed, the cliché that opposites attract is a description of a balanced relationship where each person complements the other. These differences can be a source of tension – especially regarding money – unless they are understood. Good communication and planning can lead to successful financial decision-making. Understanding each other's strengths and weaknesses can help partners work together for the good of the relationship. For example, one partner may be a saver, the other a spender; one may be a planner, the other spontaneous; one may be a giver, the other a bit stingy. A few websites host quizzes for couples that can help identify these characteristics and create a platform for a healthy dialogue. Respecting each other's differences is key to a calm and successful conversation about how best to use money as a tool to achieve a couple's goals.