Budgeting - Level 1

Your parents have a budget, your congregation has a budget and I'll bet that your Pioneer Train has some kind of a budget, too! Webster's Dictionary explains the word 'budget' as a plan for systematic spending. Also, to budget, is to plan one's expenditures of money, time, etc. So, a budget can be a plan, not only for logical spending of money, but also for your time as well. In our Bible, the word, 'budget', is not used, but the word, 'plan', is used. Basically, a 'budget' is a 'plan'. In "Isaiah chapter 48, the 11th verse says, "What I have said, that will I bring about, what I have planned, that I will do". Also in Isaiah in chapter 32, the 8th verse indicates, "But the noble man makes noble plans, and by noble deeds he stands". Our Lord wants us to plan but be sure that it is a 'noble' plan.

Needs vs. Wants

Do you know the difference between the word, '***need***', and the word, '***want***'? A **need** is a necessity or a requirement. It's something that you require, such as a pencil or pen for school, or a sleeping bag for a campout. A **want** is something that is nice to have but it isn't a necessity. Now that you know the difference between a 'need' and a 'want', grab a piece of paper and a pencil, and prepare a "**Need / Want List"**.
On the paper, make up two columns, with the word, NEED for the title for the 1st column, and the word, WANT for the 2nd title. Starting with the NEED column, write down all of your needs for you to go on a camping trip. When that column is complete, do the same thing with the other column, the WANT column.

Need	**Want**
1. Tent	1. A Tent heater
2. Sleeping Bag	2. A fan
3. Food	3. Candy

Budget Preparation

Let's start out with something we all know about. Let's budget for a meal. This meal is going to be a personal meal, just for you, to make out camping. First we need to set a budget for the meal. Let's see if you can keep the total meal cost under $10. We are going to plan the evening meal. You will have to plan for meal to include protein, carbohydrates and vegetables. Do not forget something to drink and plates, plastic wear and glasses. Ok, so we have a lot to think about so we need to write this down.

Category	Item Planned	Cost
Protein		
Carbohydrates		
Vegetables		
Drinks		
Plates		
Plastic wear		
Glasses		

Now you need to go and plan your meal. Once you have decided what you want to eat you will need to go to the grocery store and find out how much each item costs.

When you are planning make sure you take into consideration that you will not have anything else to eat until the next morning. You may need to make some changes to your planned meal to stay in budget or to meet all the needs for the meal.

The next step is to go out a purchase the agreed to items and make the meal as planned at or under the budget.

Now plan Breakfast and Lunch for just yourself. Breakfast should stay below a budget of $3 and Lunch should stay below a budget of $5.

Plan each out each meal and stay within the budget.