

Some Questions

1. What are one or two of your earliest memories of money as a child? Are they funny or sad? Does it make you angry, resentful, or grateful?
2. Was money talked about in your home or was it a taboo subject? Was money a cause of anxiety to you as a child? Does one particular memory stand out for you?
3. Did you have pocket money? If so did you earn it or was it given to you?
4. Did you work before leaving school? A Saturday Job? A paper route? What did you like to spend your money on?
5. What was your first job when you left school? How much did you earn? Do you remember what you spent the first week's wages on?
6. In a relationship (a marriage, with a friend or a sibling for example) do/did you and your partner have similar or different attitudes of money? What are/were the causes of tension and disagreement and how do/did you resolve them?
7. What have you heard in church about money (a sermon, small group or a special project)? Has church been important in shaping your money story?
8. Excluding a house, think of one big item you have bought. What was it and how did buying it make you feel?
9. Have you ever regretted buying something? What made you do it?

Going Deeper

In addition to the formative pieces of a money story, here are two other elements for ongoing reflection.

Influences: how does money exercise power and influence over us and our life decisions? How much is it the subtext to our choice of life partner, new job or why we fell out with a friend?

Symbolic: what symbolic meaning does money have for us? Does it represent success, status or identity? Does a car speak of success at work or a home of achievement?

Getting Started

Why not begin to learn to tell your own money story? The first point is not to rush things but to find the best way for you to learn your money story. There is no right and wrong way to do this:

- **Keep a journal:** write your story down over a period of weeks.
- **Talk to someone** one-to-one. This may be a trusted friend, a counsellor or mentor, a minister, a life coach, your spouse.
- **Share with others in a group:** a trusted cell or home group is a safe place.