

## LESSON #1

## ACTIVITY

# BUDGETING



### Can You Budget for the Things You Need?

Of course, you think you need that monthly Netflix subscription and dinners out with friends.

But, if you're bringing in \$2500 a month, can you afford all your needs (big ones like rent and electricity) and still have money for your "wants"?

Below is a list of monthly expenses. On a separate sheet of paper, create two columns—one for "WANTS" and one for "NEEDS." Place each expense in a column and add them up.

### MONTHLY EXPENSES

- Rent: \$1000
- Electricity: \$75
- Cell phone: \$150
- Cable/Internet: \$150
- Car payment/insurance: \$250
- Netflix: \$10
- Groceries: \$200
- Gym membership: \$75
- Clothing allowance: \$100
- Food delivery: \$100
- Morning coffee: \$60
- Haircuts/grooming: \$100
- Dog walker: \$100
- Movies at theater (with popcorn): \$60
- Student loan: \$200
- Uber: \$80

#### When you're done, ask yourself these questions:

1. Were you over or under your budget?
2. Were you surprised at how much money you were over/under in each column? Why?
3. What are "wants" that you'll do whatever it takes to afford each month? Are they worth the sacrifices?
4. For "needs," such as rent or electricity, are you open to finding cheaper options (adding a roommate or cutting back on usage) to have more disposable income?
5. How does it feel to take control of what you can afford?



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