

CHRISTIAN MONEY \$ENSE

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Making Allowances for Family

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I'll never forget hearing my high-school-aged son tell me about some friends who were getting \$50 a week allowances. My face must have told the story – shock and awe! I asked him, “Why do they get this money?” He explained, “To pay for their lunches and stuff.” I followed up his answer with the question, “What do they *do* to get that money?” This brought surprise as he replied, “They don't have to do anything – their parents just give them the money.” I'm sure that as he thought about how he had been working part-time jobs since he was 13 to “pay for stuff,” the idea of mom and dad handing him the cash was one worth bringing up for discussion.

I still ask the question, though, why give our children handouts without asking for anything in return? We don't need something in return, but to teach them one of life's basic principles...*no one will give you weekly handouts without your giving something in return* (2 Thessalonians 3:10). If we're giving our children an allowance, we help them develop a better work ethic by determining reasonable expectations for help and assistance in household tasks. My children have received allowances from time to time, and they've also worked part-time jobs beginning in their early teen years which gave great opportunities to

teach about tithing, saving, and spending. There's an interesting connection between working and earning money at a young age as a self-esteem builder. It raises children's awareness of their God-given worth as they develop skill-related abilities.

Our mandate is to prepare our children to live and think like Christ in everything they do and say and in the decisions they make. This includes their finances. In Deuteronomy 6, God instructs the Israelites to teach their children “24/7.” They were even to wear symbols of His commands on their hands and foreheads! God doesn't underestimate the power of a parent. As you consider giving be sure you're getting something in return—the opportunity to shape character, work ethic, and responsibility.

BBC Foundation has been ministering to churches and individuals regarding biblical stewardship since 1992. Send your questions on finances and stewardship to: BBC Foundation, 538 Venard Rd., Clarks Summit, PA 18411. Phone: (800) 451-8668, website: bbcfoundation.org; e-mail: info@bbcfoundation.org