



## Chris Grainger Joins Us to Talk Budget, Credit, and Investing

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**Dave**

0:00

All right, folks, welcome to Investing for Beginners Podcast. Today we have a very special guest, we have our friend Chris Granger from The Lion Within Us talking to us today about personal finance, budgeting, stewardship, and investing and all kinds of fun stuff. So this is going to be a really fun conversation. And given that we are in the new year, this is probably a very appropriate time to talk about setting new goals. And I hate the word resolution. So we'll, we'll stick with goals.

And Chris is here to talk about us about some very important things that we probably don't focus on enough. And so Chris is here to help fill in the gaps for our lack of talking about these. So Chris, thank you for joining us today. And I guess maybe can you give a kind of a brief, I guess, overview of you, and kind of how you got here today, and then we can kind of go from there.

**Chris**

0:49

Absolutely. Dave, thank you. so honored to be here, love your show you and Andrew. So I got to be here because I actually met Andrew. So we've been able to meet and go out and have developed a friendship, I just learned so much from him. And so if the line within us, you know, we really try to serve people and help them grow. And one area we really talked about is wealth. And one thing that is passionate that drove a lot of my passion is just a good understanding of money, and how to be a good steward of that money. And

just in being able to put some really basic principles in place to be able to really see the blessings that it can be because money is not a bad thing.

You know, we just have to be, we're never really taught. I don't know about you. But for me, when I went through high school, I didn't have a personal finance class or anything like that, you know, I mean, maybe there was accounting or something like that. But so far is like how do you balance the checkbook? You know, what is credit? You know, how do you buy a house, I mean, a lot of the stuff, we just learn on the fly, or we go to YouTube, or we're listening to people who are not maybe the most vetted, and we make bad decisions, and then we ended up with a mountain of debt. And, you know, because we're in early 20s, we have six figures of debt, and then we can't do the things that we want to do, because we're just, we're strapped.

And so I wrote a little ebook, to give people some insight around how to be a better steward. Be a person, you know, from a personal finance one on one basically, is what I call it. And I talked about stewardship and different pillars within that. So that's drives a lot of what I try to talk about and help people, you know, to grow in their own, you know, knowledge of finances in general.

**Andrew**

2:24

Yeah, that's awesome. Thanks for joining us, Chris. It's gonna be fun, maybe talk about a little bit of your background with personal finance and how it fits into investing. Like, you just come out of the womb as a personal finance expert, or what was that like?

**Chris**

2:38

Well see Andrew in life, I learned best when I'm making mistakes, I just make a lot of mistakes, and then learn from them, man. So that's, that's been the best way. So, you know, I was that guy who had nice house had always had in the nicest truck. All I ever cared about was, what's the payment, you know, I didn't care about how long I just want to know what the payment was, you know, credit cards, just hey, there was no delay gratification, because doggone it, I deserve it.

Now, I had that mindset, I deserve it. Now, I'm just gonna go buy it. I don't really care if I can afford it. I'm just gonna buy it. And I'll figure it out later. Because, you know, we can all make minimum payments, and we just, hey, we're just just like everybody else. I'm just keeping up with the Joneses. And I didn't ever realize

that the Joneses were broke like that nobody ever told me that right? So I was like, Okay, so let's just make it's just through bad mistakes man, and, you know, rolling negative debt into negative debt, and just keep it on our negative equity. Rather than just like with vehicles. It was a cycle for me, I would go through cars, just like people change socks, man, and it's just all I cared about was, you know, what the payment was?

So, you know, I really just kind of hit a wall and understand, you know, what, I gotta make some changes. Like, this is ridiculous. I was getting close to 40 years old. You know, you had some nice things. But the bank had the nice things, you know, I was had all these notes out. And from investment standpoint, yeah, I wanted to invest and I'm doing things in my 401 K and things like that, but I didn't have any money even if I wanted to invest it to get started because it was all going out the window from debt payments. And so that was just dragging me down. And I talked to so many people on a regular basis.

This is where many people are, this is where a lot of Americans are and they didn't many Americans can't pay a \$400 emergency me start thinking about that. Like really \$400 You can't pay that and when you start telling people man you need to have a six month or three months emergency fund was a cash reserve a liquid cash reserve, they look at you like you get three hits, and it's just like No bro like, this is this is real stuff like this is people you can be a good steward and do this because it's not if something's gonna happen is when I mean things are gonna happen, appliances, break, cars break, you know, kids get sick, all these things hit us.

And if we're not ready as from a financial standpoint, to manage that it just compounds that stress. And if you Looking at just marriage in general, outside of infidelity, finances is the number one driver, number one driver of divorce. And that's man, that's just hitting so many people. So I just have such a passion for this, because I think if we can help guys in particular that I see keep saying, Guys, because that's who I serve as men, is trying to help them be better stewards, and leaders. And that's just gonna impact families and legacies and next generation and what we teach our kids and it just, it has such a ripple effect,

**Andrew**

5:29

I feel like one of the most basic principles of investing is you got to invest with money that you don't need in the next year, two years. Because the stock markets, I mean, we talked about it over and over again, with every episode, the stock market's such a volatile place in the short term, and you don't really make your wealth from the stock market until 1020 30 years out. And when you are putting money into the market that you can't afford to lose, you're going to make all the classic decisions that we try to preach about over and over and over again.

And that's why I think a lot of people don't find success in the stock market, and end up kind of throwing your hands up, it can be a slippery slope of I'm a victim, because I didn't understand the core principles of investing and personal finances. And now it's like, things are hopeless. And I hope that we can keep as many people from that, particularly at a time now where the markets been down a lot. And people worry like, is this Now should I be taking money out? Because, you know, you don't have that, I guess feeling of I understand that this money can go up and down without me being worried about it. So for you, you mentioned stewardship several times. So what does that look like for you? And how does that help you invest?

**Chris**

6:58

Yeah, me, for me thinking about stewardship, I break it down into four categories. And this is what I try to teach guys. And to understand look, because when you get to thinking about budgeting, and it can get really confusing. I'm a super simple guy, I like to make things as simple as possible. So for areas such as giving, saving, spending and investing, I said, Okay, if you can just look at your money that you have coming in every month, whatever that is, you know, if you're blessed with, you know, \$1,000 or \$10,000 a month, it doesn't matter, or \$100,000 a month, if you can just take these these four buckets, and assign some percentages to them.

Okay. Now always start with giving, because that's just as a core principle from me, getting them in that video for your listeners. But for me, I start with giving, I think that's the number one bucket that shouldn't be the last one, that should be the first one. And you just assign a percentage to that. And maybe it's 10%, maybe it's 20, maybe it's 50, I don't know, people who is up as high as 80% of this, they just want to give it away, right? They want to serve and help others. And then saving, you need to have a saving goal. And they're nice, just to add a percentage to that. I don't go with dollars as much as do percentages, I think it makes it easier.

Particularly because you know, money comes in and comes out. Sometimes bonuses come in, maybe you get an extra check or whatever, you know, something just happens and you get a blessing. And you don't know what to do with it. If you have percentages, it just makes it so much simpler, because I do have the engineering background. And I just like numbers, and to me, it just makes it a much easier way to move forward. And you have your spending. And that's the budget, which I'm sure we'll talk about that a little bit. And then you have investing. And for each one of those, assign a percentage that works for you.

You need to establish percentages, you got to know your numbers. This is where I see Andrew and day mostly people don't know their numbers, man, they don't take the time to understand what's going in them what's coming into their account, what's going out, and everything in between. And there's a lot of transactions, there's a lot of things that happen that impact our overall portfolio. But you need to know that that number at all times. And from just a basic stewardship standpoint, all steward is someone who manages somebody else's stuff. That's it, it's just a manager of someone else's stuff. So I always envisioned myself as I'm just managing a what I've been blessed. That's it. And I'm just managing that the best way around those four buckets, and you set those percentages and the budget will help you set those percentages. And from then again, it becomes really simple.

When that money comes in. Okay, here's how we're going to split that up. 1020 30 fit, whatever that may be right? And you just break it out right there. And then it also takes a lot of the emotion out of it, man. So say as a big check that comes in all of a sudden, if you have a systematic process in place to manage that. There's no emotion to it. You just know that this is what you're gonna do as much as you can do that stuff automatically to you. I know a lot of people who make that giving stuff where it's just automatic deductions. You need to think about it. And that's when it gets that's when you start really seeing the benefits of stewardship. and start reaping that. So that's a basic overview of, of the four tenants that I try to, to help people think through.

**Dave**

10:07

So here's a question that kind of springs to mind when you're working through those four pillars. The savings part of it, like one of the things that I tried to do for myself, and I'm wondering what you think of this is, I think of it as an expense. It's part of a bill that I have to pay. When I worked in the banking industry, I heard over and over and over and over and over again, I'm going to do I'll do it at the end of the month, when I have extra money kind of thing.

And that was always the modus operandi. And those people were always the ones that were struggling the most. And ironically, it wasn't always the lower income people, it was just as much the people making 150k a year, it was the people making 35k a year. So the mentality was similar. So one of the things that I started doing, because I saw this was I just made it a bill. And I made it you know, this is when I get my paycheck, the first thing I do is I take so much money and put it into my savings account, so much money in my investing account and move on from there. And so I'm wondering, what do you think of that idea of, of trying to, you know, pay yourself first but actually doing it?

**Chris**

11:09

Yeah. So Alana Well, my budget, and I actually do use that pay yourself? First, I tell that to guys all the time, look, yeah, take care of that, after to giving, I always put that at the top. But then that's why I have you know, saving next, because you do, if you don't haven't take that proactive approach of actually paying yourself first and putting that money in intentional place for saving is never going to happen. I mean, that's how that's why, again, why most Americans can't pay a \$400 emergency, because they have zero thought about that, because we're so fixated on the now.

And this and the gratification when we want to take care of today, we're not thinking about, you know, what could happen, you know, next week, because we won't worry about that when it gets here, we're just gonna worry about today. And that's total. So far, stewardship is a blind spot.

So I think that's brilliant, it should be a line item on your budget. Definitely expense. And if you want to view it as expense, that's fine. I like to view it as an investment personally, because I'm saving, I'm investing in myself. And I know that I won't be able to read that, at some point when I need it. And then all of a sudden, that refrigerator that breaks, you know, I'm not going into all out panic, and trying to figure out, you know, which dog do I need to sell to? So good, good refrigerator, you know, I can just fund it. And I also don't have to finance a refrigerator for two years. You know, I mean, it's crazy what people are having to do just because we're not being stewards, what we have to be able to manage that. So. And by the way, I would never sell my dogs, but you know, maybe one of them, but not

**Andrew**

12:43

one. Yeah.

**Dave**

12:45

Yeah, I think that's brilliant. And, you know, my fiance pointed out something to me the other day, that even if you put aside 20 bucks a month, that's \$240 in a year. So if you do that over two years, you have almost \$500 in a savings account, for example. And, you know, \$20, I think is a pretty easy thing. It can be a pretty easy dollar amount to come up. I mean, how many of us have a \$20 bill in our pocket, and it evaporates that we have no idea where it went?

You don't remember what you spent it on the just where did it go? And I think you know, to take that same \$20 and put it in a savings account, I think would be very easy thing to do. But I guess we talked about budgeting we've kind of brushed against the subject. Let's dig into that. So what does a budget look like to you? How do you set one up? How do you manage one? Yeah, all those kinds of things.

**Chris**

13:31

Man, why did you have to say manage one and now you're gonna make me call me out on that one. But I'll just start this off with a much better teacher than I am an application guy. But he said that on my wife every month, but basically, we sit down we just use an app that there's all sorts of ways to do it, you can use a spreadsheet however you want to do it, the big thing is know your numbers. So we sit down every month. And we start off with those again, those four pillars giving saving spending and investing.

And I literally go line by line Dave on what we have, you know, mortgage we have our electricity, utilities, all those types of bills to groceries, you know, daycare, whatever your expenses are, usually lay them out. And that was at the top you need to put your income start with with what's coming in with the known income. And I said people all time Well, I'm on commission, I don't know what you have an average put an average up there, you typically have an idea even if you're in sales, 100% Commission, I've talked to those guys all the time, you have a general idea of what's coming in. So start off with the income that's coming in, and then move to that given. And then from there, again, like you said, make that saving goal as an expense. And then you got to start working down. And this is where it gets kind of hard.

This is where you really get. I've had people who've gone through this process and they come back to me crying. And I'm like, what's wrong? They're like, bro, I had no idea like, We're way over on our expenses every month and they're wondering how they got in 20 \$30,000 in debt, because, hey, your living expenses up here, but your actual income is down here and there's a gap. And you just need to know, that's why I was talking about just knowing the math, making a math problem, because then you can understand where you need to make those adjustments.

And then again, that's why I put investing at the very bottom, because so many of the people I work with, they're just not there. As much as I want them to be there, they're just not that we got to get better at that middle section. So that's how you basically set one up, so you have coming in what I'm planning to do. Now, here's where the rubber meets the road, here's where most people make a mistake, then you have to actually track it. Okay. And that takes work. You know, that mean, there's apps that do it for you and all that, and I get it, I totally get those apps that do it for you.

But I'm telling you, there is something that when you do it yourself pen to paper or pen to an Excel spreadsheet, that mentally it hurts a little bit more. And you start recognizing a little bit more or less math gets to be a little bit more real for me, we print our statement out. And every month, I literally line by line, I'm working through it. And I'm questioning stuff and there's not a single transaction per month that goes through this household that I don't know about. And that I'll tell you, some of them just really make me shake my head, like, why don't I do that? And I've learned from them. But I only do that because I take the time to know, and I actually track it. And that's where the rubber meets the road.

So you can say, Yeah, I have a budget. Yeah, do you actually use it? I mean, that's the second part of actual utilizing it. So you set it up, you track it. And then if you really want to be a steward, this is where this next step is really where the magic happens. I call it a budget committee meeting. And we do this every month, me and my wife. But this is where we sit and we do a 30 day your monthly review. How do we do? Okay, winners keep score. That's just the truth of it. So if you want to know how you're doing, look back, and evaluate yourself against your goals for every month. And you know what those goals change every month, because you know why? Birthdays come up, vacations come up, expenses come up, all these things happen in our life, right? Well adjust the budget.

And then let's see, and let's learn. And then we do a forecast, 30 day forecast, that's where we set the budget for the next month. So a practical thing we do every month, at the end of the month, we're looking back 30. And we're looking forward 30. And we do that together. And I will tell you this is hard when you first start, I promise you, it gets easier. But I'll also tell you this, there's nothing like bringing it that would bring a marriage together stronger, or a relationship together stronger than being aligned in your finances, and a budget committee meeting or whatever you want to call it, that's a great way to do it. Because at that point, basically, when we finish that, it's kind of like breaking the huddle, you know, like we got to play.

Now let's go run it, you know, we've just break it. And you know, she knows what she's doing, I know what I'm doing. And if in the middle of the month, we got to call an audible because you know, a frigerator or appliance does, we're gonna do that together, and we can go back to the budget, and make a good financial decision together, that's not gonna cause a lot of strife. Because if sometimes they may mean we need to tap into that emergency fund, right. But hey, we can make that decision together because we have the math. So setting it up, actually entering the data, and then analyzing it taking the time to understand it. If you just do those three things, you will be so far ahead of everyone else out there, it is going to be unbelievable.



And it's going to also be an eye opener. And if you cry, it's okay, I cried to the first time I did it, but you will learn how like the areas you need to adjust. And then you can just adjust them you can you'll make those decisions together. And I guarantee you at some point, it's gonna all start clicking usually takes about 10 people about three months of actually budgeting and using your process to where it just becomes natural. For me, it's just a natural way to do it now. And then you know, taking the time some people need to look at that budget halfway through the month.

Some people are looking at it every day. I would say that was stressed me out if I looked at it every day. So I usually about do a half mid month review. I just do a quick check to see how we're doing. But it's just good to know I can tell you right now I can pull up my budget and tell you right now how we're doing for January, and how what it looks like and I definitely can tell you how we did for December. I'd hope you don't ask me because was tremendous. Christmas did not go well. So it's just knowing your math and they can make it a practice.

**Andrew**

19:27

Yeah, I really love that. Can you walk through and I love that you said that it takes three months. For me. Maybe it took closer to three years. But regardless, I mean, that's a great exercise. And I just I feel like I've failed over and over and over again with it. But even through those failures, breaking the budget, I'm still further ahead than I was when I didn't have a budget and I can be really motivational.

So let's do a hypothetical, let's say I mean maybe it's really relevant because you know, December it's possible you broke your budget pretty bad. It's like, how do you approach that meeting? And then how do you adjust for the next meeting? Give us some, like, something really tangible there so people can kind of see what you mean.

**Chris**

20:13

That's a great one, man. So yes, so we didn't hit our December budget, unfortunately. So we sat down, we looked at it together, and we just for us, it was, it's always okay, what can we learn and improve on based off of our past behaviors? All right, so we know, for us, it's always the extra runs to the grocery store, they're in the middle of the week. And if for some reason, we can't go a week without going to grocery store four times, I have not yet figured out why this has to happen in this family. I mean, we do have six living in this house.

So give us a little grace. But it just that's an area that we recognize, that impacts our budget. And then also that little app on our phone and that look, probably the most popular website in a world called Amazon. I can't believe how many times I'm looking alright, what is this? What categories is Amazon are so we understand we have Amazon problems. So we both are addicts to Amazon, we are trying to find the Amazon and anonymous anonymous, so we can start doing. So it's just like, alright, we know these are two areas, the groceries to Amazon.

So we just had to make a commitment, you know what we got to for this month, for instance, we're not going to a grocery store, except once a week, if we don't get it there in that grocery run, better luck next week, you know, we're just gonna, we're gonna have to buckle down. And we're having to make some sacrifices there just to understand that, like, we just got to do a better job of that. Because when we go in the middle of the week, we make bad decisions, we just do it, we pull extra stuff we don't need to. So that's one. And then the second one is just managing that Amazon account. And the third one, I did just think of this.

And for us, it can be easy with big expenses for for instance, my exercise bike broke right before Christmas. And we hadn't budgeted for an exercise bike. You know, I mean, who budgeted for that, like, I've had that thing for years, I used to go to one bite every two or three years. And so what did I do? I did what every other American does, that's when bought one I didn't think about it. You know, I just did it. Because I liked my exercise bike, I'm a better person, I'm less grumpy. It makes me happy. You know, my bike. My wife definitely wanted me to get one she like, yes, please go get a bike, you know, I had her support.

But we made it when we sat down in January 1, it was very clear, you know what, we can't just make big purchases like that on the fly when we have budget goals, because we do have we have goals out there that we will hurt to be a stay at home with our children. And we're trying to work through all the all these different goals that we have, from a financial standpoint, we want to get a farm one day. And you can't do that if you just if you still just want a knee jerk reaction, go out and spend 1000 bucks, you know, so we need to recognize, hey, we made some mistakes, we've made some errors, we definitely don't have all this stuff figured out. But we do have all the math in front of us. So we now we can go back and look two years in the rear. And understand what happened. And understand okay, here into your point, Andrew, even though we don't hit it every month, it definitely makes us more aware. And we've come a lot further just because we have this process in place of hitting our financial goals to it as recent as we actually just sold one of our vehicles yesterday.

This is a brand new story. And so we sold it. Because again, we have goals of her staying home and things like that. And we're actually instead of going replacing a like for like we're downgrading, we're going way down, because we have other financial goals that are important to us. And we know what's important to us, and we put them in our budget and for us. So a lot of your listeners think that so we're just saying I've heard up well, I want to be weird, because normal is broke. You know, I'm saying so I don't mind being weird. I want to try some weird things. And that's just one area, for instance. But it all comes back to that budget, knowing your math, knowing numbers, and ultimately, knowing what you want to achieve in your own personal journey of finance and growth and things and wealth in the future.

And for us, it's very clear where we're trying to go where we're trying to be those stewards. And sometimes it makes means making those decisions that are not popular with the family and definitely are not popular with, you know, the world these days.

### **Andrew**

24:17

I really love the football metaphor for obvious reasons. But to think of it as like getting in the huddle, you think about when a really great wide receiver running back drops the ball. Everybody in the huddle is not pointing their finger at them saying like you're an idiot, but really saying like, Oh, don't worry about it. We'll get there next time. And usually the person who made the mistakes, the one say,

Hey, that's my bad, we'll get it next time. And I think you know, whether you're one person huddle or you're there with your wife, or husband, right having that kind of mentality maybe takes some of the guilt and the shame away. And maybe now you look forward to the huddle and you look forward to feeling and control your finances versus Looking at finances as kind of like curse,

### **Chris**

25:02

right? And once one small tip for your budget with your finances, put a fun bucket money in your budget for your spouse or your significant other, there needs to be some flexibility isn't this, you know, this shouldn't be considered a like a bad word, you know, budgets, not a four letter word. So it shouldn't be like that. So put up like for us, and we'll just call it my wife's fun money bucket. And maybe it's \$50. Maybe it's \$100, depending on where you're at, with your finances.

But yeah, I had that there too, because there needs to be some people, when they think budget, they think rigid. And they think, Oh, this is too rigid to me rules. No road, it's not it, we're telling our money work to do versus our money telling us what to do. I mean, that's the big difference in mindset. So make it a little fun, you know, have some money in there for me and my wife, there's a date night bucket in our expenses, we know, we want to plan for that. So we put that there. And when we get to go out, you don't have to worry about it. Because we know we budgeted for it, we have that expense. So we can actually focus you know what on us and not be stressed out over the money or how much the bill is gonna be. So have those fun money buckets, and in those fun little areas in your expenses, too, because it doesn't just have to always be, you know, Bill, Bill, Bill, Bill, Bill has it, there can be some fun in it as well.

**Dave**

26:17

Yeah, that's perfect. Because that definitely needs to be and I agree with you. Budgeting has become a four letter word. And it does, it definitely has this feel of rigidity. And I think that's what turns a lot of people off. But when you budget in more, I guess discretionary things that can be a lot more flexible and loose and makes it more appealing for people to adhere to it. If they think that they have to give up, you know, their Starbucks coffee every single day to meet their goals, then it becomes something they don't look forward to. And nobody wants that.

Right. Yeah, nobody wants that. I love what you guys are talking about. Because the current reminds me a little bit of what James clear was teaching in his book atomic habits, where if you fall off the horse, get back on to the next day, it's okay, you know, it happens. And I love that he included that in his book, because a lot of times when you're thinking about creating habits, and that's kind of what we're talking about, is when you create habits, it's okay to fall off the horse as long as you get back on it. And a lot of people I think if they break their budget, then they all of a sudden think it's you know, I can't do this.

And it's over, and I'm never going to try anymore. And it's it's okay, you know, like you were just saying you broke your budget in December, I think we probably helped did. And Amazon is a big culprit for a lot of us. And it's okay to do that. And I think we have to give ourselves a little a little pat on the back and say, hey, you know, get up and go back and try again, you know, it's my bad I got it, but you know, the rest of the team will help you. So I love what you guys were talking about. That was awesome.

**Andrew**

27:46

Good stuff. So Chris, I gotta ask, cuz, you know, there's, I realized that like being the number of spreadsheet guy, I'm kind of sometimes the outlier there. So like you mentioned, some apps where there's some good apps that people can look into to help with getting the budget started.

**Chris**

28:03

I mean, the one that I use, and the one that I recommend everybody and it's free is to every dollar out, I mean, it's put out by the Ramsey organization, you can pay for it. But I use the free version just because you know, I'm on a budget. The reason I really promoted like the free version, this is this is legit, this is real, the free version forces you to do the work. Okay? So when you pay for it, like you can link your accounts. And you know, some people love that you link to your accounts, your your bank accounts, and all that stuff, and everything just gets pulled in.

To me, it just loses it, you know, I want to be able to manually type in my mortgage payment, every time I fill my car up with gas, I want to put that number in. Because that gives it's teaching me in the moment to have that habit of because you know what, when I type it in, what automatically pops up is how much of that bucket for that month is remaining, you know, so Okay, I got 10 days in a month left I got \$50 in gas left that I had planned for. Maybe I need to chill out on the driving or excitement or do what I can to at least understand the numbers so I like the free version because it may forces that habit you know that muscle memory of entering that stuff. Every expense comes in and doesn't do it for you for free for automatically because I think that's what has gotten so many people in trouble is all of these automatic deductions and things like that they just they don't think about it. Think about it.

Your money is worth taking the time to think about I mean seriously it is seriously worth to take the time to think about I like that one Andrew just me I haven't found one that's I'm sure there are ones out there that do very similar I like it as well because if you're married and set up one account and so my wife and Alice a shared account and she enters stuff i Under stuff so when she's buying stuff she enters in, I can look at all time that she knows what we're where we are. I know where we are. So just makes really good alignment. For us as a couple, and I think that's a big plus for for what they're doing with that app, that's what I would recommend. I mean, I definitely liked the free version of it.

**Andrew**

30:08

That's awesome. I think people, if they haven't at least tried to do a budget, just try and give yourself some wiggle room. And you might be surprised with what happens. So Chris, we're not gonna let you get out of

here without talking a little bit about investing. So what's like the most exciting part of investing that really gets you riled up? I feel that for me, one of my big financial why's is the investing part. Because investing so exciting for me, what about investing is appealing to you.

**Chris**

30:45

And what's really cool about it, for me is what it can do in the future and how I'll be able to serve others in the future because I'm investing now, I really have a servant mindset. And and so for me, it's not about having boats and, you know, big houses and things like that. It's about being able to do work that I feel like I've been called to do. And when I was looking at simple stuff, like I asked guys all the time, I'm like, Alright, I'm gonna give you a penny a day. Alright, so right now that one, if I gave you a penny a day that doubles every day, would you rather have that for 30 days or million dollars?

And they're like, man, I'll take that million dollars, I want that million dollars. And then I show him well, if you do that penny a day for 30 days, you're about 5.3 mil, bro. And they're like, Huh, I'm like, I'm telling you, I was like, It's the power of compound interest. And that's why I try to make things super simple. I'm like, No, that's 100%, like return. So like, that's a bad analogy. But still, it gives you the idea. So just knowing what potential exists there. And you're never going to be able to reap any of those benefits. Maybe you do want to boats and mansions and all that stuff.

Great. You know, we're just not alone there. But if you do, use the power of compound interest and get you there, and the only thing that the variable, that same compound interest that makes the biggest difference that most people don't even think about is time, you have to have time in. And the more time in, the more that's going to work for you and benefit for you. But every every day, every hour every every year that you just sit on the sidelines and wait, you're just missing. That's just opportunity costs, you're just missing right there. So that's what gets me pumped up about investing, because I think it's important in simple ways, man, 401, K's IRAs, there's simple ways to get going. You don't have to make this super complicated. But you do have to be intentional.

**Andrew**

32:28

And you did talk a lot about the 401, k's and the IRAs in your book. So tell us a little bit about your book and what that's all about.

**Chris**

32:39

Yeah, I mean, it's just a little ebook. It's taking the bathroom and probably read it for a good bathroom session. But it's 60 pages, you know, but it's for me, I just wanted to put something out there to give a little bit of things that I've learned. And so basically give an overview of stewardship, what that looks like, definitely touched on giving, saving, spending and investing, talking about the budget. And I talked about loans, what loans look like, you know, how we should approach loans, vehicles, because I try to really have somewhat of a radical approach on cars and car payments and what that can do for you, because I believe in investing in things that appreciate not depreciate. So we talk a lot about that.

And then education costs as well. Because I mean, we're so much that we're trying to think about how do we pay for education in the future, and there's so many different ways to be considering it. And for one thing, I'm starting to talk a lot more and more about his vocation, skills that we should be encouraging our kids and our the next generation to consider because we got to start in sourcing more here in this country. So that takes learning skills. And you know, there should be no down looking down on someone who learns welding versus someone who goes to business school, I guarantee you that the welder is going to be making things a lot quicker.

So it's just trying to have conversations about that type of stuff. So that's what the books about. It all ties around from a Christian worldview, to be honest with you, that's really where we tie everything back to Scripture and trying to help guys just take a lot of this and apply it into a lot of areas of their life. That's what the books about.

**Andrew**

34:09

That's awesome. I won't say where I read it. But it's a really nice, fast, easy read. How can people get access to this book? Yeah, I

**Chris**

34:22

mean, right now we have everything within our community, so it's aligned with them. So if you go to the line within.us That's where you can connect with us. You know, and check it out. If you interested hop in for 30 days, we do a 30 day 30 day free trial. And if all you do is hop and get the ebook and hop out, that's cool.

Like seriously, if it just if it serves you in that capacity, check it out. There is a finance course I did with the book as well. So you can hop in for 30 days. Do that course.

And hopefully it helps you it gives you some guidance and support. So again, the line with dan.us click on Join the community and all those resources They're for free for a 30 day free trial, we'd love to have you there, Nancy, if you like it and want to keep going with this, you can be part of our community and move forward and where we teach guys how to be those leaders that we think they should be. So

**Dave**

35:13

that's awesome. Well, Chris, this was fantastic conversation. And I know I learned a lot. And I'm looking forward to reading the book as well. I won't say where I'll read it. But that, you know, maybe someday I'll reveal, but we really appreciate you taking the time to come talk to us today. It was a lot of fun.

And I really enjoyed the conversation. So I guess with that, we will go ahead and wrap up our conversation for today. I wanted to thank Chris for taking the time out of his day to come talk to us and help educate all of our listeners about some important topics, including budgeting. And without any further ado, I'll go ahead and sign us off you guys go out there and invest with a margin of safety. Emphasis on the safety. Have a great week, and we'll talk to you all next week.

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