

<b>Size Up Your Situation</b>	
Use these questions to help you start thinking about investments — even if you don't have any just yet.	
How much do you have available to invest on a monthly basis? Be honest with your budget at this point in time. You can make adjustments to it later, but what could you set aside right now toward investing?	
What income investments do you have currently (for example, a property that you own and rent out to others)?	
Do you currently invest in your employer's retirement plan (e.g., 401(k) or 403(b) plan)?	
Yes	No                      N/A
How much do you contribute and how often (e.g., 6 percent per paycheck)?	
per	
Does your employer offer a matching contribution?	Yes      No
What is the maximum amount your employer will match?	_____ %
Are you currently contributing up to the maximum employer match?	Yes      No

What other growth investments do you have currently?

Use your answers to the above questions to reflect upon the following questions:

How comfortable am I with my investments so far? Is there something else I could be doing to make a change in my investment strategy? Am I comfortable enough to make an investment change?

What else could I be doing with my money? Are my retirement goals supported by my current investment strategies? Am I giving up something by continuing with my current investment strategy? If so, what is it?



What's holding me back from making an investment change? What other information do I need?

<b>Analyze Your Circumstances</b>	
<p>Before you can select appropriate investments, identify and rank your investment objectives. Rank these objectives from 1 (most important) to 10 (least important) and use this information when choosing investment products or when working with a financial professional.</p>	
<i>Priority Rank (1-10):</i>	<i>Investment Goal</i>
	Minimize the risk of loss of principal (amount invested).
	Maximize potential for large short-term gains.
	Ensure slow, stable growth to fund long-term future needs, such as retirement or a child’s education.
	Maximize liquidity in the event funds are needed in a hurry.
	Maximize current income to provide for current needs.
	Reduce income taxes.
	Build savings toward short- or mid-term major purchases, such as a down payment on the purchase of a home.
	Maximize the value of your estate for your heirs.
	Minimize the amount of estate taxes owed upon your death.
	Protect assets from the claims of creditors or others.



# Start reducing your debt by making a Debt action plan

1. Review the pros and cons of each strategy for paying down debt.
2. List your top three debts, sorted based on the strategy you chose—either by smallest total dollar amount or highest interest rate.

	<b>PAY SMALLEST DEBT FIRST</b> 	<b>PAY HIGHEST INTEREST RATE FIRST</b> 																
<b>Description</b>	After you've made all your minimum payments, increase your payment on the smallest debt. After it's paid off, add that extra amount to your minimum payment on the next smallest debt.	After you've made all your minimum payments, increase your payment on the debt that has the highest interest rate. After it's paid off, add that extra amount to your minimum payment on the next highest-rate debt.																
<b>Pro</b>	If you have many small debts, you might see progress quickly by reducing the number of debts you owe.	By paying off the debts that charge you the highest interest and fees first, you save money overall.																
<b>Con</b>	If the interest rate and fees are high on your larger debts and you pay the smaller ones first, you might pay more in total over the length of the debt.	You might not feel like you're making progress very quickly, especially if the first debt is large.																
	<p>I'll pay down the smallest debt first, in this order:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>DEBT</th> <th>AMOUNT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1.</td> <td>\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2.</td> <td>\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3.</td> <td>\$</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	DEBT	AMOUNT	1.	\$	2.	\$	3.	\$	<p>I'll pay down the debt with the highest interest rate first, in this order:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>DEBT</th> <th>INTEREST RATE</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1.</td> <td>%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2.</td> <td>%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3.</td> <td>%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	DEBT	INTEREST RATE	1.	%	2.	%	3.	%
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## Week 3

## Scarcity vs Abundance

In finances it's easy to feel like you need to do more with less. Let's rework that mindset to prime our brain for abundant possibilities with this exercise:

**Step 1:** List some examples of in which it feels like there's not enough in column 1 below.

**Step 2:** in column 2 get curious and ask 'is it *really true*' that there's not enough in this area.

**Step 3:** in column 3, brainstorm how can you shift your focus to remind yourself that there are abundant possibilities.

Column 1: not enough	Column 2: is it true?	Column 3: Reframe
Ex: time to get everything done	Sometimes; but doesn't have to be this way	Schedule ½ day off in calendar, breaks in the day

Now let's focus on the alternative- the areas in our lives when there is more than enough to go around. In column 1, think of areas where there is plenty and in column 2, jot down some ways to immerse yourself in this abundance.

Column 1: so much!	Column 2: How can I get more of this?
Ex: wild blueberries	Take a day to pick berries this summer, make jam, share with neighbors, etc.