**Advanced Money School Lesson 1 Worksheet: Your Money’s Mission Statement**

In this lesson, we talked about the value of thinking about your personal finances as if you (or your family) were a business. In this exercise, you’re going to write a “mission statement” for your money that defines how you see the role of money in your life.

Although the exercise of thinking of yourself as a one-person (or one-family) business is useful for thinking about your “profit and loss”, simply writing a mission statement as if you were an actual business doesn’t make much sense. After all, you don’t really have a product, or customers, or shareholders.

But mission and vision statements are important tools that businesses use to guide their employees and stay committed to common values.

In that spirt, this exercise will help you clarify how money fits into your big picture. In other words, this isn’t necessarily the place to write out “money is important because it will help me buy these $3,000 sneakers I’ve been wanting”. Unless, of course, that really is one of your BIGGEST goals in life…in that case, put it down!

We’ll break down this exercise into 3 parts.

1. Ask yourself the following questions:
   1. What’s most important to you in life?
   2. What are your top two or three major life goals?
   3. What role do you think money should play in your life, if any, above and beyond being a necessary means to pay for life’s necessitates?
2. Brainstorm ideas based on your answers:
   1. What ideas, words, or phrases come to mind based upon your answers in step one?
3. Edit and draft your mission statement based on the keywords you discovered in step two.

I’ll give you an example. I chose to write my mission statement as a bulleted list. You don’t have to. You could write a sentence or a paragraph. It can be as long or short as you want.

My money’s mission is/The role of money in my life is:

* To provide a secure and comfortable future for my family without the need to borrow money.
* To allow my wife and I to work for ourselves and on our own schedules.
* To enabling a life full of enriching experiences.
* To permit me to make meaningful contributions to non-profit organizations that make a difference in the world – both now and via my estate after my death.

Once you have your money’s mission statement, jot it down on a post it or index card and keep it on your desk or somewhere else you can refer to it as you go through Advanced Money School and as you perform other routine financial tasks like paying bills or reviewing your budget.