

## Money Zone: Career

***Each member can print this out and have it available to follow and take notes.***

How you define success may depend on your gender. Often, a man's sense of accomplishment is closely tied to his professional achievements—a prestigious title, large salary and material possessions are integral to his sense of self-worth. Generally, women are more multi-dimensional and place as much value on time spent with loved ones and on self-development as they do on their career accomplishments. For many women, whether single or married, a successful career is just part of the equation; a diverse and fulfilling personal life is more important than money.

### **Icebreaker**

What did you want to be when you grew up? What appealed to you about that career? How did your aspirations change as you got older?

### **Things to Talk About**

If you're a mom, or plan to be, balancing career and family can be a difficult process. Sixty-seven percent of mothers work, and many of them experience conflicts between their desire for a fulfilling career and a satisfying family life. And yet, surveys show that women who balance family and career are happier than those who focus on one or the other, because they end up doubly fulfilled.

Pick the question your Club finds most interesting. If there's still time, pick another one -- or make up your own!

- If you were to design the perfect job, what would it be?
- Are you interested in staying home with your children full-time? Would you be willing to make financial and career sacrifices to stay home?
- Did your mother have a career outside the home or was she a stay-at-home mom?
- How do you feel about your current career? Are you ready for a change or happy where you are?

## **AS USUAL...**

### **Catch Yourself Doing Something Right**

Share your success with your fellow Club members:

- What Money Miracle (unexpected good fortune) did you have since last meeting?
- What did you do since last meeting to become a Money Star (a money-savvy gal in charge of her finances)? How did you further your financial goals?

### **What Will You Do Today?**

Choose one **Small Step** to do before next meeting, and pledge to the group to do it. To select that 15-minute exercise, ask yourself these questions:

- What are your money challenges before the next meeting?
- What do you need to focus on?

- What is the next step in your life -- and what can you do before the next meeting to achieve it?

Don't drive yourself crazy. Remember, you can do anything for 15 minutes! For example:

- I will spend 15 minutes brainstorming possible career ideas with a close friend.

Or

- I will discuss possible flex-time, job-sharing, or other arrangements with my employer.

Or

- I will spend 15 minutes thinking of ways that I could work at home using my current skills and contacts.

You get the picture. This is like Goldilocks. Don't try to do too much. Don't try to do too little. Do it just right.

More Cool Ideas for Small Steps

<http://moneyclubs.com/dotoday.htm>

## **Money Magic**

Choose one affirmation to motivate you to achieve your goals, something like:

- I am balancing career and family.
- I am achieving my career goals.
- I am growing in my knowledge and expertise.
- I am a Money Star!

## **The Money Zone for Next Meeting**

Cast your vote: Does your Money Club want to stay in this Money Zone, or do you want to move on to the next Money Zone?

If your group decides to Stay in the Zone then, future Money Star, check out these fun articles so you can discuss them at your next meeting. Even if your group decides to move to the next Zone, you still can explore these on your own.

Beyond a Job

[http://www.jobsnake.com/seek/articles/index.cgi??openarticle&8626&Dead-End\\_Job?\\_5\\_Rules\\_to\\_Help\\_You\\_Make\\_the\\_Tough\\_Decisions!](http://www.jobsnake.com/seek/articles/index.cgi??openarticle&8626&Dead-End_Job?_5_Rules_to_Help_You_Make_the_Tough_Decisions!)

Discussion questions:

- What resources might help you in your "job" search?
- To whom can you talk who has successfully navigated a career change?

Balancing Your Life <http://wife.org/heard/balance.htm>

Discussion questions:

- Do some parts of your life seem out of balance?
- What can you do *today* to bring more balance into your life?

## Landing Your Dream Job

[http://launch.womensforum.com/WF/web/goto.aspx?url=http://www.girlposse.com/talk\\_talk\\_talk/pasttalk/dreamjob/dreamjob.html](http://launch.womensforum.com/WF/web/goto.aspx?url=http://www.girlposse.com/talk_talk_talk/pasttalk/dreamjob/dreamjob.html)

Discussion questions:

- What is your idea of a dream job?
- How can you navigate from your current situation to your ideal?

## **Just for You**

Before the next Money Club meeting, do the Just for You Exercise called "Finding Your Passion"

<http://moneyclubs.com/moneyzones/career-finding-your-passion.htm>

*Don't skip a meeting if you don't get this done. Half of life is showing up, Money Clubs included. You can tell the group you didn't get it done, and they will encourage you (not bug you) to make a date to do it soon.*

Discussion questions for your club meeting:

- Who can be a role model for you in your career search?
- What can you do to move closer to your goals right now?