



Begin a LIB Finance Club: Frequently Asked Questions

1. Who will I invite to join the LIB Finance Club?

Friends, co-workers, business associates and neighbors are perfect candidates to join the LIB Finance Club. The goal is to bring together anyone who wants to improve their financial health. Attitude is everything! Avoid naysayers, people who “believe” debt is a normal part of life, and anyone with a negative attitude. People who are willing and eager to learn, grow and improve their quality of life are excellent candidates.

2. How often should the LIB Finance Club meet?

Clubs seem to work best when meeting every other week; however, you can set any schedule you desire. Some clubs meet once a week, while others meet once a month.

3. How many people should attend and where should the LIB Finance Club meet?

Where the Finance Club meets may influence the number of members in the club or vice versa. We suggest from four to twelve members in each club. The key is to keep it fun and manageable where everyone can actively participate in the process. Clubs can meet in any comfortable location – workplace, school, homes, clubhouses, churches. Be creative – host brown bag lunch meetings or afterschool clubs. If your library, bookstore, community center, YMCA or restaurant has a meeting room available, this can work as well.

4. Do I have to know a lot about money to begin a LIB Finance Club?

You don't have to be an expert to begin a Finance Club. As long as you are motivated to learn and grow and to help others do the same, you can begin a club. Living In the Black, Inc. will provide pertinent information to facilitate growth and understanding of financial matters. Your responsibility is to provide a forum where everyone can talk openly and honestly about finances; hold each other accountable and give support as each person moves to debt elimination and financial health.

5. What happens at a LIB Finance Club meeting?

The meetings usually last from one hour to an hour and a half. We recommend that clubs follow this format: 1-Icebreaker (10 min.) 2-Discussions on the DIME (30 min.) 3-Celebrate your success (5 min.) 4-LIBerating Moment (5 min.) 5-Set personal goals and establish agenda for next meeting (10 min.). Please visit our website for details in each of these areas.

6. I started a LIB Finance Club, but several people dropped out and I became discouraged.

People will always come and go. You can always invite more people. Be open to changes in your club. In fact, keep adding new people until you develop a strong core group who are truly committed to making changes in their financial lives. What's most important is that you remain focused and committed to growth to insure your own financial success.

7. Our LIB Finance Club is growing too large. There's not enough room for everyone.

Sometimes more people may want to join than can comfortably fit in your meeting area. The first inclination is to say, "find a bigger space". However, key components of the Finance Club include facilitating meaningful discussions between "everyone" in the group and maintaining an intimate, supportive environment where you hold each other accountable. This could prove difficult in large groups. We suggest that you encourage others to start their own club.

8. I've sent out invitations to the first LIB Finance Club meeting, and now I'm experiencing jitters. Please help!

No need to be nervous. Your job is to welcome the members and make everyone feel comfortable with the group. Once you do that, you'll find the rest will flow easily. Here are some tips:

- Provide refreshments. Food is always a good way to bring people together and create an amenable atmosphere. You can keep this simple, cookies, chips, punch – or if you're the gourmet, go for it!
- Make sure the room is comfortable. Arrange seating and lighting so that everyone can see and hear each other clearly. You know your group. Some may feel comfortable around a table; others may want to sit on sofas or the floor. Just try to make everyone comfortable.
- Introduce everyone. Ask each group member to share a little bit of information about themselves and why she decided to join the Finance Club. The Icebreaker activity is a great way to get things moving after introductions.

We are excited about the benefits you'll receive from participating in a LIB Finance Club. Here are few additional notes to begin a successful club.

- **Provide real leadership.** In most groups, leadership rotates from meeting to meeting giving each member a chance to lead the group. Some groups prefer to have the same person lead each time. In any event, the leader should ensure that everyone gets a chance to hear and be heard. Also, ensure that the groups stay focus on positive steps to financial health.
- **Attendance is a must.** Emphasize faithful participation in this process. If members attend and apply what they're learning, they'll see and reap the benefits. It's a natural process. However, it takes time, consistency, diligence and commitment to excel.
- **Don't dominate.** Allow everyone to speak openly without any one person dominating the conversation. There are no wrong or silly questions. Living In the Black, Inc. will provide the information to be used as a focus and backdrop; however, everyone's input is crucial. Encourage people to share wisdom, knowledge and strategies that work!
- **Have fun.** This process can lead to financial health and wealth. Everyone can become **LIBerated**, free from debt and worry! That's something to celebrate. Enjoy the journey. Keep the meetings fun and each member engaged!