

# Meet Money Mentor Laura Smith.

Learn more about Money Mentor  
Laura Smith's passion and heart for  
those experiencing financial distress in  
Australia, and why she believes Money  
Mentoring is so important.





#### Occupation

Mum

#### Church

C3 Newcastle

#### Money Mentor since

2021

“  
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Money Mentoring offers a unique opportunity to sit with people from all walks of life, listen to their stories, and journey through life's valleys with them.

**It's a rare privilege to be received with such vulnerability and to show the love of Jesus in practical, relational, and personal ways.**

You don't need to be a financial expert or love spreadsheets. You just need to be willing to show up, show love, and come alongside someone. The impact you witness is often life-changing for both of you.

I currently walk alongside participants both online and in person through my church. For my online participants, sessions typically involve sending a weekly video call link and connecting for about an hour online. We always make sure to spend the final five to 10 minutes in prayer. If they're feeling confident, we also agree on simple tasks for them to work on during the week.

For local participants, we meet in our church ministry centre. We go through their paperwork together and share the same hour connecting in person. Since local participants live nearby, there's often an opportunity to invite them to join our church community.

One of my favourite parts of Money Mentoring is the way it allows you to witness the goodness of God, not just in your own life, but in the lives of others. You get to speak hope into places of darkness and despair, offer prayer to people who may not yet have a faith of their own, and then watch as the Holy Spirit begins to move in their lives. Ultimately, you get to witness lives being transformed.

Then, when a new participant comes along, someone feeling ashamed, burdened, or overwhelmed, you enter that relationship already filled with hope and expectation, knowing what God can do. You're able to speak life into their situation, even before they can feel it themselves.

**The more that I see God transform lives, the more my confident joy grows in anticipation of what He is going to do next.**

As a pregnant, working parent of a toddler, life can feel pretty full! At the moment, I have four participants, but we're in the process of equipping more Money Mentors at church. This will allow us to better respond to local needs while keeping everyone's commitments balanced and sustainable.

**If you have the capacity, I truly believe there is incredible missional work that can be done.**

It's a powerful way to share God's love and bring hope to those who might otherwise be alone.



# Meet Money Mentor **Darren Chapman.**

Read Money Mentor and Executive Pastor at C3 Victory Darren Chapman's honest and heartfelt take on what it's like to walk alongside people experiencing financial distress.





#### Occupation

Pastor

#### Church

C3 Victory

#### Money Mentor since

2021

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As a Money Mentor, it has been wonderful to see people who come to me in quite a fragile state become more stable and confident over the months that I meet with them. It's a real privilege to journey with people out of distress. That's always something that I'm grateful for in this role.

**We really do get to meet people in some of their hardest moments and help them make changes to the rest of their lives. And that's exciting and powerful.**

I tell people all the time how much I love my job, and they always respond with “Wow that must be so rewarding”.

And it truly is because we get to help people manage their money well into the future and make good financial choices.

**So it's quite an empowering role, the role of the Money Mentor, because we really are empowering people in distress out of that distress and then into stability and confidence.**

But it can sometimes be quite confronting the way that people first show up in my office. And there are times when the journey of a Money Mentor doesn't end how you are wanting it to. It's not always the easiest role to play, but it's definitely the most rewarding because those people who do continue, who do the real journey – not just the ‘fix my money’ journey, but the real journey of learning and growth and change – those are the ones that are big success stories. They then go on to live their lives not burdened by the money problems and the money issues that they started with.

For me spiritually, Money Mentoring has been about learning wisdom. It has encouraged me to be confronted

with biblical principles including wise stewardship and responsibility and generosity towards others. And it's helped me partner with the Holy Spirit to help others move forward in their journeys. This has been deeply satisfying and has benefited my own walk with God.

**Jesus said you'll always have the poor with you, and that's a challenging statement, but it means there's always work to be done – there's always people who need help, who need someone to come alongside them.**

The Kingdom is not just keeping what we receive for ourselves. It's as freely as you have received, freely give. And that's not just forgiveness or just love, it's what we have received – salvation and wisdom and acceptance and freedom and the journeys that we get to go on as believers.

We're not just meant to keep it to ourselves, so I would encourage all Christians to walk alongside someone to bless them.