

A game of consequences.

You will ask your group to think about a range of financial situations and what each character could have done to avoid getting themselves into that situation. Below each situation is the information for you, as the volunteer, to feed into the discussion if required. Place emphasis on the key take away from each scenario – these are underlined.

Jodie couldn't resist a new mobile phone with a great camera, and signed a new 24 month contract.

She has just realised that her outgoings each month now add up to more than she earns.

She could have avoided this situation if...

- She had been less impulsive and took time to think about whether she could afford the phone before she signed the contract.
- She had planned ahead and budgeted for a more affordable phone.

Dipak has just spent his last £100 this month on a final payment for his summer holiday. His Council Tax bill has just arrived and he can't pay it.

He could have avoided this situation if...

- He had a budget for his spending, so he had set money aside for essential expenses like Council Tax before spending on things like holidays.

Noah's bank account is overdrawn, and he has had a letter from his energy provider to say that they have not been able to take the direct debit payment from his account this month.

He could have avoided this situation if...

- He had kept track of his spending more closely and ensured all of his direct debits, and other essential needs, were accounted for before he spent money on anything else.

Jake has just lost his job and he is a month behind with his rent. His landlord has issued him with an eviction notice.

He could have avoided this situation if...

- He had some savings he could use to pay his rent until he found another job.
- He spoke to his landlord sooner, who may have agreed for him to pay the outstanding amount when he got another job.

Josh is a bit short of cash and a friend of a friend in the pub offers to lend him £100. The following week the 'friend' says he wants £150 back to repay the loan.

He could have avoided this situation if...

- He had understood that if you don't know someone well, you should never borrow money from them. You never know what their motivations are and they may be acting illegally.
- He had known that borrowing money should always come with a written contract or agreement of some sort. If it doesn't, then you should be very wary of such an offer.
- He had a budget to help manage his finances, so that he could avoid borrowing money.

Debbie has just popped into the local café to use the Wi-Fi to pay a bill. The next day she finds that £200 has gone from her account.

She could have avoided this situation if...

- She had not accessed her bank account in a public place and on public Wi-Fi, because it may not be secure.
- She had made sure she had logged out of the device used fully before she left the café.

Dave has just exceeded the amount he has available on his credit card and can't afford to pay it all off. He could have avoided this situation if...

- He had budgeted more carefully and only used his credit card to pay for things when he could afford to pay it off.
- He had understood how much interest he was likely to pay if he only met the minimum payments each month.
- He had tried to cut down on spending in other areas so that he could keep up payments.
- He had discussed his spending habits with his banking provider, who may have been able to introduce a block on certain spends.

When you get to the end ask them: With the person next to you, share one new thing that you have learnt from this activity that you think is really important, and that you'll take away from this session and use to help you manage your money in the future.