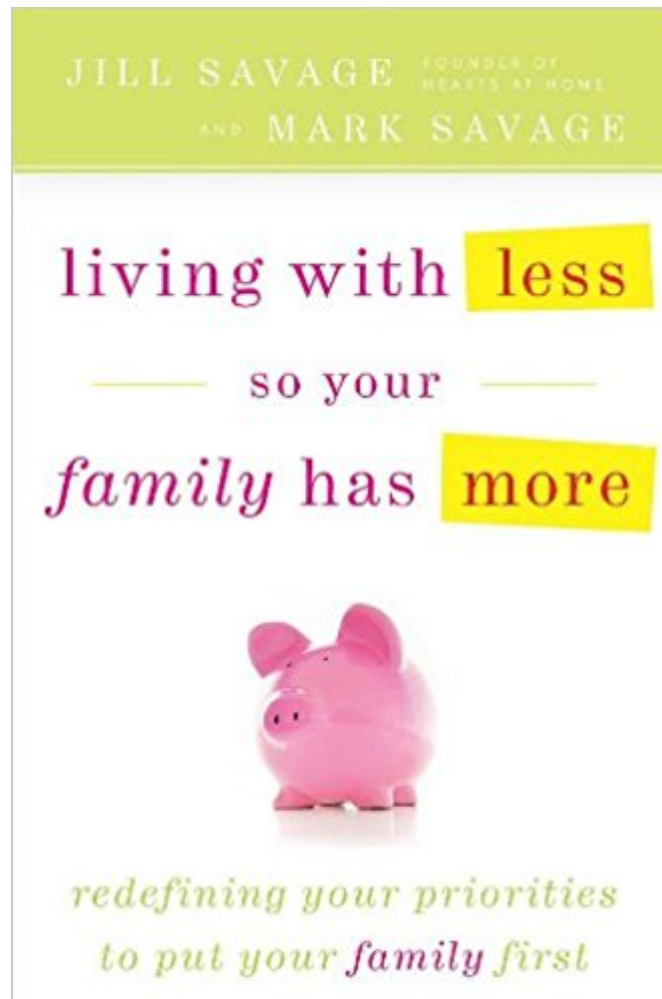


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# Living With Less So Your Family Has More



## Synopsis

Our culture believes that bigger is better, but Jill and Mark Savage believe that being satisfied with less materially can allow you to give your family more -- emotionally, relationally, and spiritually. Jill and Mark Savage, a husband and wife team who have made it on less than society says they need for more than twenty years, lay out a three-step plan for investing in the things that really matter. First, they help you identify a long-term vision for your family, and then they show you the attitudes that you'll need to adopt to make that vision a reality. They then share practical action steps to help you make small and big changes -- from organizing coupons more effectively to changing a career path or transitioning to a smaller home. Whether your goal is allowing both parents to cut back work hours and stress, making it financially feasible for one parent to stay home full-time, or simply carving out more time in the day for family, *Living With Less So Your Family Has More* will help you get there. Sprinkled with true stories from families who have used Jill and Mark's techniques for living richly, the Savages' honest, straightforward, in-the-trenches approach will inspire and encourage you to live well while still putting your family first.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Mark and Jill have hit the nail on the head with this timely book! The first half focuses on the heart issues of living with less, things like contentment that really require a counter-cultural mentality. Then they get into the practical things-you-can-do to make the most of your money. Both parts are necessary if you desire to make positive changes in your financial and family life. It gave me practical takeaways that have changed my thinking in several areas. This is a practical, must read

book for any family wanting to put the focus back on relationships and not things. I would highly recommend it.

This book had great tips and advice about cutting back (we've recently been through a job layoff, so cutting back was a necessity, not a choice). But even more helpful and encouraging were the Savages' thoughts on priorities. Especially the idea that adults face peer pressure every bit as much as teens, and it usually shows up in financial ways. I found this book so practical and helpful given our situation, and would recommend it to anyone who truly wants to have more of all the important things in life. The way it was written, using real-life examples and stories, made it a very quick and easy read.

I'm on the same page with Jill and Mark regarding radically responsible finances, but I still learned a thing or two about simpler living through their book. This is more than a "cheap living" book because it first gets at the heart of living on less, and that's desiring less and being content with less. They've taken to everyday life the principles of "simplicity" writers like Richard Foster, and given us the tools to have happy but fiscally responsible families. I appreciated some of the fun ideas along the way, like suggesting kid games like "drop the penny on the quarter at the bottom of the bucket of water." The 10 Thrifty Thoughts defined in Chapter 7 were especially good. Some of the ideas may seem obvious to those of us who've lived frugally for decades, but there's a new generation out there that's racked up debt and never been taught the basic ways of cutting back. So, bravo! Get this book to read with your spouse. Recommend it for your young moms/young dads/young marrieds weekly fellowship. With Mark sharing the byline, it's NOT a "women's book"--it's a family TEAM book.

**Good Perspective Change & Place to Start** Whether you are purposefully choosing a simpler lifestyle or responding to an economic crunch, this author offers a meaningful perspective on why the unseen is more important than the seen- the value of relationships & family vs. unnecessary, material desires. I was affirmed in the reasons why we make "extreme" financial decisions that are so different than our neighbors or extended family. Readers who are new to the concept of simpler living will find compelling support for valuing peace and security over the stress and complications of financial strain or excess. I learned a few new tips for stretching my time and dollars. But, for someone raised in a thrifty household or well versed in Dave Ramsey, the suggestions may not be earth shattering. Overall, this was an encouraging read and would be helpful to those looking for

ways to be more responsible with God's blessings.

This book is extremely generic with its suggestions, and uses God as the primary motivation for most of the changes (if not all) in your and/or your family's lives. One suggestion about going through a difficult situation at work was to thank God for the character building the situation provides. It completely misses the premise that if people are treating you like junk or you're not getting any resolution in a situation, that you need to do more than thank God for the abuse and carry on without doing anything about it. I don't mind some religious scripture, suggestion and so on, but this book was extremely preachy and very self-based in terms of what worked for them. It does NOT take into account how folks of non-religious persuasion should possibly approach things, and that only God is the answer. I intensely dislike books that are so one-sided. It has a picture of a piggy bank on the front. That implies to me no-nonsense advice, and is therefore misleading. They should, instead, have a picture of a church sucking the money out of your piggy bank and a harried single parent desperately trying to hold onto it. Honestly, maybe the church telling you that you NEED to tithe to them, is the reason you have to live with less, so they have to ply you with scripture so you believe that you actually have more. Sounds like a Nigerian scam.

Initially, I thought this book was going to focus on how to make do with less money, which I was anxious to learn about when I read it after it was first published. However, this book teaches you so much more than that. The Savages have also taught how to live against the societal norm, and how to NOT keep up with the Joneses. One of Jill's points, that I just repeated to myself the other day was, "Just because tee-ball (or ballet, or piano lessons) is offered for three year olds doesn't mean you need to sign them up for it." Living with less means living with less stress, fewer outside commitments, and managing your money in a way that honors God. If your family goals involve any of these things, this book is a must read. You can read more of my thoughts on it here: [...]

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