

EPISODE 03 · PARENT ENGAGEMENT GUIDE

The Hourglass: Time Is the Real Money Cheat Code

Compound interest in 2 minutes. Then a lifetime of interest compounded.



Every year delayed costs your child six figures at retirement. Two minutes today moves the needle for 50 years.

If your child starts investing at age 14 instead of age 24, they need to save 70% LESS to reach the same retirement number. That is not opinion — that is math. IVY shows the hourglass. The grains never come back.

Tagline: The Money Lessons Schools Skip. Taught as an Adventure, Not a Lecture.

WHY THIS LESSON MATTERS NOW

Most American adults learned about money by trial and error and by absorbing whatever their household modeled. Research consistently shows that financial habits set before age 14 persist into adulthood. This episode is a 2-minute on-ramp to a real, useful skill — designed so you and your child can take ten extra minutes tonight and lock in the concept for life.

Core skill this episode delivers:

Read a compound-growth curve. Understand why early dollars beat big dollars.

The 2-minute video does the hook. This guide does the deep-dive.

DINNER-TABLE PROMPTS — THREE AGE BANDS

Pick prompts at your child's level. Older kids can answer the younger prompts faster, but you might be surprised what they say.

Age band	Prompt
Squire (6-9)	What did IVY ask in the video that made you stop and think?
	If you had five dollars right now, what would you do with it first?
	What is one new word you learned today?
Knight (10-13)	Pick ONE of the five pillars from this episode. Explain it back to me without looking.
	What is one money mistake you have already made — even a small one?
	If you could change one thing about how our family handles money, what would it be?
Champion (14-16)	How does this episode connect to the kind of adult you want to be at 25?
	What is the one thing in this lesson that you think most adults get WRONG?
	If we made one change starting next month based on this episode, what should it be?

A 5-DAY HOME ROUTINE

Optional but powerful. Stick this on the fridge. Each day takes under 10 minutes.

Day	What we do	Time
MON	Watch the 2-minute video together. Pause at the hook.	5 min
TUE	Pick one of the five pillars. Discuss in plain language.	8 min
WED	Open the Kids workbook to the comic page. Do it together.	10 min
THU	Family-chat prompt at dinner.	10 min
FRI	Champion challenge: extension question. Optional reward.	10 min

MILESTONES BY AGE

Realistic, age-band-aware indicators that your child has internalized this episode. Tick them off as you see them.

Age band	Milestone you should see
Squire (6-9)	Names at least 3 of the 5 pillars without prompting.
Squire (6-9)	Uses one new vocab word in conversation this week.
Knight (10-13)	Can rebuild the 5-pillar diagram from memory on paper.
Knight (10-13)	Connects this episode to a real choice they made or saw.
Champion (14-16)	Defends an opinion using a vocab word from the glossary.
Champion (14-16)	Proposes a real change to a household money habit.

WHAT TO DO TONIGHT - BY AGE

Pick one bullet from your child's age band. Set a 10-minute timer. Do that one thing.

Squire (6-9)	Knight (10-13)	Champion (14-17)
Show a real hourglass. Pick a single coin. Talk about 50 years of doubling.	Calculate the doubling time of \$100 at 4%, 8%, 12% using the Rule of 72.	Open a custodial Roth account application together. Read every form field aloud.

YOUR FAMILY MONEY-CONFIDENCE CHECK

Tick the boxes you can honestly tick today. Re-tick in 90 days after running the Pillars series.

☐ Our family talks about money at the dinner table at least once a week.

☐ Each child can name at least 3 of the 5 jars without prompting.

☐ Each child has a real or pretend container for at least one jar.

☐ We have an emergency fund of at least \$500 (or have a plan to get there).

☐ Each working adult contributes to a retirement account, even a small amount.

☐ We know roughly what our effective tax rate is.

☐ We have at least one type of insurance for our biggest 'rare ruinous' risk.

☐ We have run at least one micro-business loop (lemonade, lawn, Etsy, dog-walk, etc.) with the kids.

☐ Our kids know the difference between 'chase-it' and 'pay-away' risk.

☐ Our kids know the Rule of 72.

PARENT GLOSSARY (so you can answer their questions)

Word	Plain meaning
Compound interest	Interest that earns interest. Money makes money makes money.
Principal	The starting amount you put in.
Return	The percentage your money grows in a year.
Doubling time	How long it takes your money to double — about 72 divided by your annual return.
Time horizon	How many years your money has to grow.
Patience	The single rarest investing skill.
Index fund	A simple basket that owns a tiny piece of hundreds of companies at once.
Custodial account	An investing account a parent or guardian opens for a kid.

CONVERSATION RECOVERY KIT

Kids push back. That is healthy. Here are 6 things they might say and what works to keep the conversation going. Pick one phrase you would actually use.

If your kid says...	Try saying...
This is boring.	Fair. The first 30 seconds of every adult skill is boring. The second 30 are useful. Want to test it for 60 seconds?
Why does this matter?	Because the kid who learns this at 12 saves about 70 percent more by 30. That is not opinion; that is math.
My friends don't do this.	Your friends will pay rent in 6 years. The kid who knows this will pay it without panic.
I don't have any money to manage.	Today you have zero. In 5 years you will have paychecks. We are practicing now while the stakes are low.
You don't follow this either.	Honest answer. We start tonight. Together.
Can we just watch a video instead?	Yes - exactly the 2-minute video this guide goes with. Then 5 more minutes. Deal?

COMMON ADULT MISTAKES THIS LESSON HEADS OFF

- Believing you 'cannot start until you have \$1,000 saved.' False — you can start with \$20 a month.
- Selling on a downturn — locking in the loss and ending the compounding.
- Picking individual stocks before owning a diversified index fund.

HOW CASHQUEST KIDS FITS A BUSY HOUSEHOLD

You do not have hours to teach money. The whole curriculum is built so that 10 minutes a week - well-placed - beats two hours of lecture. Here is how parents actually use the master pass on real schedules.

Household shape	How the pack fits
Two-working-parent household	Watch the 2-minute Pillars video at breakfast. Pin the dinner-table prompt to the fridge. Champion-band kids self-serve the workbook.
Single-parent household	Use the 5-day routine table - each day is under 10 minutes. Trade the family chat for a car-ride conversation if needed.
Multigenerational household	Grandparents are a force-multiplier. Have a grandparent answer the family-chat prompt with a story from their first paycheck.
Foster / blended household	Kids may have heard conflicting money rules from multiple adults. The 5-jar / risk / hourglass / paycheck / loop frames let them pick a single mental model.
Homeschool / co-op household	Use the Teacher pack as the primary lesson plan. Run all 6 Pillars episodes as a single 6-week block before going deep on a tract.

TRACT DECISION HELPER

Six honest questions to help you and your child pick the FIRST tract to go deep on after the Pillars series.

Question	Decision rule
Which mentor did your child mention by name AT DINNER?	That is the tract.
Which episode did they want to re-watch?	That is the tract.
Which family money topic CAUSES THE MOST FRICTION at home?	That is probably the tract.
Which topic would build the most confidence for a kid right NOW (vs. later)?	Pick the confidence-builder.
Which tract has the lowest activation energy this month?	Start where you can ACT immediately.
Which tract are YOU least comfortable with — and willing to learn alongside?	Modeling learning is the most powerful move.

RESOURCES + WHAT'S NEXT

Loved IVY? Go deeper inside the Investor Lab tract.

Master all-access — \$49.99 once:

Enroll in the full curriculum at [cashquestkids.com](https://www.cashquestkids.com) — \$49.99 lifetime all-access. Includes 60+ episodes, K/P/T teaching packs, Transcript Kit, and Certificate of Completion across all 5 tracts: Money Smarts, Insurance Genius, Investor Lab, What's a Tax, and Business World.

Enroll: <https://www.cashquestkids.com>

Other tracts in the same pass:

Money Smarts. Insurance Genius. Investor Lab. What's a Tax. Business World.

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