

## **Fear of Not Having Enough Small Group Guide**

**Warm-up Question:** (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part altogether, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. What was your favorite food as a kid and why? How often did you get to have this type of food/meal?
2. What is the name of the last show that you binge watched? What appealed to you about it that compelled you to keep watching?

**Read the following passage:** Luke 12:24-32.

The streets that Jesus walked were dusty. The physical labor he did as a carpenter left his body tired. The people of Israel, with whom he lived, were ruled by the iron fist of the Romans which involved both heavy taxation and the constant threat of death. In this context, there were plenty of things that “made sense” to worry about: not having enough food, limited economic opportunity, and bleak prospects of any near-term national prosperity. However, Jesus reframed the situation by affirming that life is *more than* meeting one’s own material needs. He pointed to the goodness and protection of God as evidenced both in nature and within the history of the Israelite people. He urged his disciples to set their hearts on God’s kingdom and to live in a posture of radical generosity. With God fully in view, and with our focus in the right place, we can resist the constant pull towards fear and instead live joy-filled lives of faith and generosity.

**Questions for Discussion** (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. How frequently do you feel the temptation to worry? What kinds of things are you most prone to worry about? Why?
2. What is the ultimate purpose of your life? How might an accurate understanding of the meaning of life positively affect your outlook on the future?
3. Jesus says, “do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink.” What does it mean to “set your heart on” something? Why would Jesus warn against this? Is there anything in your life that has become a misdirected focus of your desire?
4. Read Philippians 4:6-7. This verse addresses similar themes to the passage in Luke and is reported to be the most highlighted verse in the Bible. Why do you think this verse appeals to so many people? How can this verse help us?
5. Jesus urged his followers to “seek [God’s] kingdom” (Luke 12:31). What does this mean? In what way do you need to seek God’s kingdom in your own life?

6. The Bible has much to say about the wisdom of things like saving money, investing wisely, and working hard. Are these principles at odds with a life focused on the kingdom and with living generously? (See, for example, Proverbs 13:11; 21:5; 6:6-11.)
7. In verses 24-28, Jesus tells us to “*consider* the ravens” and then to “*consider* how the wild flowers grow.” How do the focus of our attention and the meditations of our hearts influence our attitude and overall perspective? In what way(s) can you change the focus of your meditation to intentionally grow in hope and faith?

## **Pray**