

God and Money Small Group Guide

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

1. Have you ever had an idea for a business? Explain.
2. Would you describe yourself as more of a saver or spender? Explain.

Read the following passage: Luke 12:13-21.

This was not the only time in Jesus' ministry that an individual attempted to persuade Jesus to arbitrate a sibling conflict (Luke 10:38-42). Jesus uses the opportunity to give a strong warning not to allow greed to corrupt our hearts. Most of us do not intend to be greedy. But the hope of what money might provide has a strong allure.

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

1. What would you consider to be a healthy perspective on money and possessions? Why do you think we tend to be blind to greed in our own hearts?
2. How might our level of wealth affect our self-identity? Have you ever felt self-conscious about your financial state? Do you think we are prone to behave differently toward people based on our perception of their level of wealth? Explain.
3. Read Proverbs 18:11. What are some ways money might make us feel safe? Consider again Luke 12:18-21. What was Jesus' perspective on the rich man's state?
4. What do you tend to do when you feel uneasy about your circumstances? (e.g. decide to work harder, look to family members for support, talk with a friend, try to earn more money, escape in entertainment, pray, etc.)
5. What are some ways that money can give a person some level of power? Are there any ways that you find yourself attempting to have more control or power? Explain. Read Luke 22:24-27. What did Jesus do with his power?
6. Read Luke 12:27-31. Jesus exhorts us to trust God with our material needs. Jesus is not implying, of course, that we don't work or use our finances wisely. Practically, what does it mean to trust God with our material needs?
7. Jesus told his disciples to "seek [God's] kingdom" (Luke 12:31). What are some ways we can prioritize God's kingdom in our lives?
8. Read Luke 12:32-34. Jesus encouraged his disciples that they would be given the kingdom of God and that they should store up a treasure in heaven. What does this

mean? How might this affect how we live in the present?

9. How do you feel when you are asked to give money to a person, cause, or organization? How can giving away a portion of our income help us confront greed in our lives? Do you give any of your money to the church, other organizations, or people outside of your family? If so, do you do this on a regular basis or sporadically?
10. Read 1 Timothy 6:17. What is one thing you can do this week to put your hope in God and not in money?

Pray