

(1) An Opening THOUGHT

According to Luke, our attitudes toward money and possessions... are inseparable from the good news of the kingdom that Jesus brings. Jesus' ministry to "the poor" in its broadest sense calls the church to live as a gracious and giving community that in love reaches beyond status lines.

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(3) Key POINTS

- Wealth-building is deceptive and dangerous because money doesn't last.
- God's part is to provide; our part is to work, rest, and trust.
- God instructs us to give the "first fruits" of our labour back to him.
- God calls us to manage our money carefully, ethically, and generously.
- Spending money we don't have is a bad idea in so many ways.
- God generously rewards our generosity.
- Godly financial stewardship is a critical part of living an abundant life.

(2) Read the TEXT Together

Luke 6:38 - Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

Matthew 6:19-21 - Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

1 Timothy 6:6 - ...godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it.

Luke 12:15 - Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

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Do you have questions or comments about this resource?
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GROUPS RESOURCE

A WEEKLY GUIDE TO HELP GROUPS FOLLOW JESUS TOGETHER

(4) Looking to the WORD

Look at 1 Timothy 6:6-19.

- What are Paul's instructions about money?
- What basis or logic does Paul use to support his statements?
- Why does Paul think this teaching is important?

(5) Looking at our WORLD

In the Bible, God gives us a clear understanding of money and how we should handle it. Look back at the Key Points. For each point, give an example of how our culture is pulling us in the opposite direction.

- What is culture telling us or tempting us with?

(6) Looking at our LIVES

Reflect and Discuss:

- Jeremy spoke about the work, rest, and trust balance in our lives. Do we allow ourselves, and the people in our lives, time to rest? Do we struggle with laziness at work? How are we doing with trusting in God's provision?
- How do we view our money: as our own or as God's? How do we earn it and manage it: are we careful to be disciplined, and are we ethical toward others?

(7) Looking AHEAD and PRAYING Together

Here are this week's On-Ramps:

- Read the "Parable of the Talents" (Matthew 25) and ask God to teach you to be a good manager of his stuff.
- Work hard, rest well and trust God. Be intentional and cheerful with your generosity. Get angry at your debt and kill it.
- If you recognize that money is a stressor or a master in your life, confess it and ask God to give you a deep desire for true wealth.