

WHAT IF JESUS WAS SERIOUS?



8-WEEK STUDY

on the challenging teachings of Jesus
in the Sermon on the Mount

WEEK 6

Discussion Guide

**If Jesus was serious,
we can't work for two bosses.**

Matthew 6:19-24

WHAT IF JESUS WAS SERIOUS?



WEEKLY READING

Primary text from this week: Matthew 6:19-24

GETTING STARTED

Goals for this session: To better understand Jesus' teaching on storing up treasure on earth

Missed the sermon? Watch it at www.youtube.com/venturamissionary

Break the Ice: What would you do if you won \$10 million in the lottery?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What comes to mind when you think of money? What emotions are stirred? Why is money such a difficult topic to discuss?
2. What does the Bible say about money? What have you read or studied about money in Scripture that has helped you understand God's principles about money?
3. Jesus begins **Matthew 6:19-24** with a double command: *do not* store up for yourselves treasures on earth, but *do* store up treasures in heaven. What do you think Jesus means by "treasures on earth" and "treasures in heaven?"
4. Jesus explains that the danger of accumulating "treasures on earth" is that moths and vermin destroy, and thieves break in and steal. Since moths and vermin aren't significant concerns today, what are some of the forces in our modern world that threaten our possessions (money, homes, cars, etc.)?
5. Have someone in the group read **Matthew 19:16-26**. What about this story confuses or challenges you?
6. Have someone in the group read **Luke 12:13-21**. Do you think Jesus is encouraging us not to have a savings account, or is He warning against something else? Explain.
7. Have someone in the group read **1 Timothy 6:10**. How would you define "the love of money?"
8. What is one step you can take this week to reduce your tendency to prioritize money and possessions too highly?

PRAYER

Pray for each other: Have the group pray for each other that God would continue to provide for your needs in a way that allows you to give sacrificially and generously.

Pray for yourself: Pray and ask God to reveal any ways in which money or possessions (or their pursuits) have become an idol.

Pray for your four: Identify four people who don't know Jesus (friends, family, neighbors, or co-workers/classmates), and commit to pray for them consistently. Pray that **(1)** God would reveal Jesus to them, **(2)** that God would turn their hearts towards Him, **(3)** that God would put Christians in their path to represent Christ, and **(4)** that God would give you an opportunity to share what Christ has done in your life.

ACTION STEPS

Do the following this week: Identify one “extra expense” you can do without (Starbucks coffee, dessert, a meal at a restaurant, etc) and instead donate that extra money to Casa de Vida, our drug and alcohol recovery home ministry partner at www.casadevida.net.

NOTES

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