

Advent Conspiracy

Spend Less

TALK IT OVER

Key Scripture

17 And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" 18 And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. 19 You know the commandments: 'Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.'" 20 And he said to him, "Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth." 21 And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." 22 Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. 23 And Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" 24 And the disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how difficult it is to enter the kingdom of God! 25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." – Mark 10:17-25 (ESV)

Start Talking: Find a conversation starter for your group. (15 Min)

- What would you say is the hot ticket item to buy this Christmas? What is on everyone's must have list?
- What are some other things you spend your money on besides gifts around Christmas time?

Head: Start Thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking. (10 Min)

- Read Mark 10:17-25. What is the rich man asked to do and why?
 - Was he able to do it? "How hard it is for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven?"
 - What did Jesus feel for him? What does it say in verse 21?
 - What do you think this passage has to do with Advent?

Heart: Start Sharing. Choose a question to create openness. (10 Min)

- What would it mean for you this Holiday season to spend less?
- How can money and shopping rob you of some of the truer gifts of Christmas?
- What are some ways for you to spend less this year? What can you do instead of buying a lot of gifts?
- How can remembering the greatest gift fill you this Christmas?

Hands: Start Doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week. (10 Min)

- Maybe this year it's about putting your money in to a more meaningful use? Donate to a charity, make a gift for someone, travel to see someone special.
- Plan a smaller budget this Christmas and stick to it.

Start Praying. Be bold and pray with power. (15 Min)

- For suggestions on structuring prayer time, see the *Group Prayer Ideas* page in this packet.

Trios: Split into same-gender groups of three. (15 Min)

1. What's a passage of scripture that has impacted you this week? Read it to the group and explain why.
2. Is there anything God is leading you to repent of?
3. How's your weekly 3-2-1 challenge going? (*3 Conversations with New People, Learn 2 Names, Make 1 Meaningful Connection*)
4. Who is one non-believer that you need to reach out to this week?
5. What's something you'd like someone else to check in with you about this week?
6. Pray for one another.

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