

## Algorithm Week 4

**Ice-Breaker:** (Group Leader - Have everyone in your group answer this question. Start with one person and then proceed around the group in a circle until the last person has answered. Be specific with who you would like to start with.)

- What is the most short sighted large purchase you have ever made?

**Small Group Focus:** Eternal Perspective & Money

# eternity

[ih-tur-ni-tee]

noun, plural **eternities**.

1. Infinite time; duration without beginning or end.
2. **Eternal** existence, especially as contrasted with mortal life: *the eternity of God*.
3. *Theology*. the timeless state into which the soul passes at a person's death.
4. An endless or seemingly endless period of time: *We had to wait an eternity for the check to arrive*.

**Tough Questions to Consider:** (Group Leader - Ask 3 or 4 specific people to answer these questions.)

1. Is eternity real?
2. Does everyone live somewhere forever?
3. What happens there?

**TEXT Luke 12:13-21** Jesus tells a story. (Group Leader - Ask someone to read the text out loud.)

## The Parable of the Rich Fool

*13 Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me."*

*14 Jesus replied, "Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?" 15 Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions."*

*16 And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. 17 He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.'*

*18 "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. 19 And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.'"*

*20 "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'*

*21 "This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God."*

**Group Question:** (Group Leader - Ask 2 or 3 specific people to answer these questions.)

- What are your thoughts to the response Jesus has when a man asks him to tell his brother to divvy up the inheritance?
  - Jesus said, "Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?"
- If the story ended in verse 19 what do you think the response of people from the outside looking in would be? Correlate this to our culture: A young person retires early and sets their life up to take it easy. What does our culture say?
- What is your perspective of the ending of the story?

**TEXT Luke 12:22-34** (Group Leader - Ask someone to read the text out loud.)

## Do Not Worry

*22 Then Jesus said to his disciples: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. 23 For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. 24*

*Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! 25 Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life? 26 Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?"*

*27 "Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. 28 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! 29 And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. 30 For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. 31 But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well."*

*32 "Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. 33 Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. 34 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."*

**Group Question:** *(Group Leader - Ask 2 or 3 specific people to answer these questions.)*

- Why does Jesus talk about worry?
- What is his reminder?
- Why does Jesus talk about our heart/soul and the idea of treasure or our money being tied together? *"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."*
- Does the money you give to God, go away?

**Something to think on...**

*Financial planners tell us, "When it comes to your money, don't think just three months or three years ahead. Think thirty years ahead." Christ, the ultimate investment counselor, takes it further. He says, "Don't ask how your investment will be paying off in just thirty years. Ask how it will be paying off in thirty million years."*

**From Randy Alcorn's, "The Treasure Principle."**

**Closing Question:** *(Group Leader - Ask everyone to answer the challenge.)*

- How are you processing the idea of your money and eternity?

**Closing Challenge:** *(Group Leader - Ask everyone to answer the challenge.)*

- What are you committed to do in order to see your actions line up with your belief?

**Closing Prayer:** *(Group Leader - Ask someone to pray for the group out loud or have everyone in the group pray.)*

- Holy Spirit, we invite you to help us see our money in light of eternity.

**Thanks:** Thanks to everyone for coming to group.