

DISCUSSIONNOTES

1.12.20



"There's a big difference between having things and being rich. The world measures wealth in terms of possessions. Your worth is how much you own. And it is so easy for us to get caught up in the mindset of this world and become obsessed with things. But Christians are supposed to be different." Read **Romans 12:2**. What three things could you think of that a Christian should do/live differently than the world? Discuss.

Read **Ecclesiastes 5:10**. The love of money is never satisfied. Robert Morris preaches at Gateway Church in Dallas, TX. He says there are only two things you can do with the tithe. *"You can steal it or return it to God!"* He's right. The first 10% is God's, not ours, and we should return it or it's the same as stealing from God. How does this make you feel? What have you learned about money and what advice would you give to someone just starting out? How has tithing made a difference in your own life? Discuss.

Read **Ecclesiastes 5:12**. More stuff equals more stress. What good comes of throwing things out, decluttering, and being content with what you have? Explain. How does money NOT bring security? Discuss.

Read **Ecclesiastes 5:13-14**. Examples of failure bring anxiety. Jamie said, *"Some people hoard wealth. It pains them to spend."* Read what the Bible says about this in **1 Timothy 6:17**. What happens to your life, finances, when you really trust God? What is the difference between someone who is driven by anxiety verses someone who has a bounce in their step, trusting and relying on God? Discuss.

Read **Ecclesiastes 5:15-16**. Death takes everything. What is your goal in life? Eternal riches? Or earthly possessions? Read **Luke 12:16-21**. What does this verse tell you? How does the last sentence make you feel?

Read **Ecclesiastes 5:18**. A truly rich person is content with simple things. Jamie said, *"Wealth is not determined by what you have but by how much more you want. If you don't want much, you're content with what you have, you're rich."* Read **Ecclesiastes 5:19**. Jamie mentioned, *"What good is all the money in the world if you can't enjoy it? If you have good health, if you can see and hear and taste. If you can walk and live mostly without pain: you are a rich person."* How can you change the way you think to realize how rich you are? Explain. Close by reading **Philippians 4:11-12**. What have you learned from this sermon? End by praying for people to see how rich they truly are.