LEADER GUIDE WEEK 1



### **WEEK ONE**

### **WATCH**

Make sure everyone can see the screen and the audio is at a comfortable level.

### **READ**

Take some time in advance to read and consider the Bible study questions and come up with personal examples to encourage discussion.

### **DISCUSS**

We hope those who participate in the study walk away knowing, feeling, and doing differently as a result of amazing discussion.

### **BIG IDEA**

On a clear night, you can look up and see a sky full of stars. Out in the country, away from the lights of the city, you can see even more. Yet as many as you think you can see, you are actually seeing very little of what is actually out there! Seeing the fullness of our universe requires so much more than our human eyes. Through scientific innovations, we can see the vastness of the universe God created!

It is the same with our own lives. The things of this world that we can see and touch are only a small piece of all that God has created. In order to experience the fullness we can find only in Him, we must forget about the tangible things here on earth, and focus on the eternal, spiritual things of heaven! We must see beyond what our physical eyes can perceive and look through our spiritual eyes, revealing our eternal treasure and the investment it requires. In this week's study, we will see that as we taste and see the goodness of God for ourselves, we should eagerly share this treasure with others as we continue to marvel and delight in it for ourselves each day!


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Matthew 6:19-21; Jeremiah 29:13; Matthew 13:44; Isaiah 12

### **OPENING**

What stood out to you from the message this week? What led you to really think? Did anything challenge you?

How would you define a treasure? What makes something a treasure to one person and not another? Why do we value treasures so much?

### WATCH

Make sure everyone can see the screen and the audio is at a comfortable level.

What jumped out at you from the video in this session? What are some of the key points that affected you more than others?

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WEEK 1

# BEONE. MAKE ONE.

### READ

Read Matthew 6:19-21

According to these verses, how can we determine what we value or treasure most? How are priorities an indicator of the heart?

(We can determine our treasures by looking at the things to which we give our time, attention, and energy. Jesus, as He did many times, turned the values of this world upside-down! In His teaching, He wasn't actually referring to our actual possessions, but rather to how our heart responds to our possessions and passions. Our priorities, or the things we value the most, will receive the most of us!)

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#### **NOTES**

Does this passage mean that we can't have property, money, investments, etc, if we are going to be followers of Christ? Why or why not?

(Jesus isn't telling us that we can't have any possessions or things of value, but He is reminding us that the things of this life - our material, worldly things - are not to have as much importance and control over our lives. Striving to get ahead here on earth has no ETERNAL value! The praise and acknowledgement we receive here on earth will not benefit us eternally. Rather, Jesus is teaching that we are to use everything that we have and all that we are to bring glory to God!)


### As followers of Christ, what should be our focus as we live our lives here on earth? What value or worth will we find by following Christ?

(Our work and treasure in this life should be focused on God's Kingdom and His work. If we don't submit to His plan and allow ourselves to be used by Him, our lives will not have any long-term meaning or value. Nothing in our world today is permanent. Only our spiritual treasures will last eternally. The work Christ calls us to bears truly permanent fruit. The impact we have on people's lives can have an eternal impact as they choose to follow Christ.)

Why is it so hard to let go of the temporary, earthly treasures of this world to follow Christ and His promise of eternal, heavenly treasures?

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(In our human nature, we often like to hold on to our physical possessions as they give us a sense of control. Those things that we can't see or touch can often be difficult to put our faith in, allowing our fear to grow. When we focus too much on our greed or desire for material things, we show our lack of trust in God, as well as our short-term view of life by focusing on the earthly rather than the eternal. The story of the Gospel can sound crazy to those who don't know Him, but just because something seems hard to believe doesn't mean that it isn't true!)

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#### Read Jeremiah 29:13

Why is it so important that we seek God above other things?

(What we seek reveals what we value. What do we spend our time on? What do we think about? What do we spend our money on? What do we talk about? The answer to these questions will show the true treasure of our hearts. In order to live for Him, He must be the one we seek and focus on!)

#### **NOTES**

How can we continue to put our hope and trust in God when we don't see the immediate results that we are looking for?

(We are to seek God in EVERY situation. Even in the difficult times, we can still depend on and trust in Him. When we seek Him wholeheartedly, we will find Him. Because our treasure is in Him instead of the things of this world, we may not see all of the results right now. But we must keep in mind that our eternal investment is worth much more than our temporary gain! We must also remember that God's answer may not be the answer we wanted, but it is the best answer. He uses all of the things we experience to shape us into the people He desires us to be.)

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According	to	Jesus'	рa	rab	le,	when	we
experience	the	goodn	ess	of	God	and	His
Kingdom,	what	should	our	att	itude	be?	How
should we	respo	nd?					

(God's Kingdom has an eternal value that is incomparable to anything here on earth. It is worth everything - all we have and even who we are! It is worth sacrificing everything for the eternal reward that it provides. Open for discussion.)

## If we know that heaven is our eternal destiny, why are we so easily drawn to the worldly things and indifferent about Christ and the life He calls us to live?

(Just as the treasure was hidden, buried in the ground, the fullness that comes from life in Christ can often be hidden by the things of this world. When we don't focus on Him, we can get so caught up in the things of life that we miss out on the best that God has for us. Only through God can we actually discover the treasure that He has for us! Open for discussion.)

### **DIGGING DEEPER**

#### Read Isaiah 12

Isaiah, whose name means "God is salvation," was a prophet to the nation of Israel. He had experienced God personally, and he boldly spoke the word of God to a nation that needed to repent and return to Him. He had seen God's greatness and wanted others to respond to it as well. In this passage titled A Song of Praise, Isaiah reminded the people of who God was and what He had planned for them in the future. We can find hope here, too, as we look forward to that same future with Christ for all of eternity!

### How can we see God at work in the events going on in the world around us?

(Open for discussion. Even in the times of total despair, we can see God working and moving in people's lives. He is still there; His Spirit is always with us! He has given us the hope of what is to come for all who choose to follow Him. He is our source of salvation and deliverance. Even in difficult times, we see Him continue to draw people to Him. We also see those willing to risk everything, including life itself, to do His work.)

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WFFK 1

THE CALL TO FOLLOW!

## BEONE MAKE ONE.

ls joy thriving in your	life? Why	or why	not?
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(Open for discussion)

As we remember what God has done for us and look forward to our future with Him, how should we respond? How will it affect those we encounter every day?

(We can respond to His provision and His promises by worshiping Him, not just in song, but with our lives! We are called to be His witnesses of all He has done to provide salvation for His people throughout history, and through the saving grace of Jesus Christ!)

God desires to have a relationship with us. We are called to follow Christ. But whenever we give up following Jesus for anything else, we are accepting a cheap substitute for the true joy that we were destined to experience. We need to live our lives with open hands and hearts, willing to follow Christ wherever He leads, because that which He calls us to give up will be far inferior to Him. When people choose to focus on the temporary things of this world, they are wasting their lives on things that don't matter, living without any eternal hope.

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### **PRAY**

Consider the following as you pray together:

- If Jesus were to analyze your life, what would He say your treasure is? Think about the things that consume your thoughts, energy, and time. Are they earthly treasures or eternal treasures?.
- Is there anything that you are not willing to "sell" right now? Take time this week to be honest with yourself and look for those earthly values (beliefs, emotions, attitudes, mindsets, etc.). Pray over those things and allow God to help you release them to Him and focus on His eternal values.
- In light of all that God has done for you, take the opportunity this week to tell someone who doesn't know Him how He has saved you.

"God made us: invented us as a man invents an engine. A car is made to run on gas, and it would not run properly on anything else. Now God designed the human machine to run on Himself. He Himself is the fuel our spirits were designed to burn, or the food our spirits were designed to feed on. There is no other. That is why it is just no good asking God to make us happy in our own way without bothering about religion. God cannot give us a happiness and peace apart from Himself, because it is not there." (C.S. Lewis)




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