

Talk About It

Small Group Discussion Guide

Money On My Mind

October 26-29, 2023

Start Talking

Name 3 famous people who share your first name.

Main Idea

We are in the final week of the "Money On My Mind" teaching series. Money is one of the most frequent topics in the Bible because God understands the pull it can have on our hearts and the power it has to derail our lives if we don't steward these resources well. Its allure promises security, status, and significance but often delivers bondage and strife instead. This week, we are discussing legacy and generosity. In previous weeks, we discussed that God is not interested in our money; He is interested in us – in our hearts. He has given us the example of living with an "others" focus. Money often indicates, however, whether we are living that way. We will all leave a legacy one day, but we get to choose what that will be by how we live today. Even Solomon, the richest man in the world, who denied himself nothing, found that pursuing things was ultimately meaningless (Eccl. 2:10-11). Actor Rainn Wilson shared the same sentiment thousands of years later, forsaking what mattered to pursue things that don't satisfy. Are we guilty of living that same pattern, chasing the temptation that "things" will satisfy us and that "more" will bring its promised contentment? What does God have to say? What has He demonstrated? Investment in people, people, people is what satisfies! So, let's lean in to hear what else God has to say to us about generosity and legacy!

Personalize It

1. What does it mean to "trust in money" instead of God? Is it a trust issue? A control issue? A security issue? What can you do to combat that temptation in the future?
2. Pastor Ken shared that it's more about the heart than the amount, but the amount also indicates the true condition of the heart. Where do you see this play out in your life?
3. Discuss the 3 keys to keeping "things" in their proper order: 1) honor God first, 2) determine whether you can afford it, and 3) whether you are looking to that thing for unhealthy reasons (self-worth, identity, security). Why is each aspect important to recognize? Is there one in particular that needs improvement in your life?
4. Who have been the most impactful people in your life in the past 5 years? How did they invest in your life?
5. How are you investing your most precious resources—time, people, and money—in ways that will outlive you? What could you start doing to express value and love toward others?

Let's Do It! Commit to a step and live it out this week!

1. Invest in your legacy this week. Start a habit of investing time in those who are closest to you. Start regular family nights, or once-a-month date nights, or scheduled phone calls to loved ones

who live farther away. Develop a heart that expresses love by these intentional time investments. Share with the group next week what you have started.

2. Experience generosity. Pick up a Thanksgiving Meal Kit box this weekend, fill it with the items on the enclosed shopping list, and bring it back to Cypress during weekend worship on November 9 & 12. A certificate for a whole turkey will be added to the meal kit, and then the meals kits will be delivered to those financially hurting this season.
3. Are you living with financial "margin"? Are you as generous as you would like to be? If not, *decide now* to commit to a 9-week Financial Peace University class at Cypress next semester. Find out more about FPU and your path to financial health, generosity, and legacy on the Cypress Church app under "Next Steps", the QR code during Cypress services, or [HERE](#). Financial peace awaits!

Let's Pray

Lord, thank You for loving us so lavishly. Your Word reminds us that every good and perfect gift is from You. You gave us Your son, Jesus, to die in our place so that we might live! You stand ready to bless us even more if we will but ask and do so from pure motives. Help us to remember that You have given us so much so that we can bless others and live lives that tangibly express the loving and generous God we serve. Help us not to derive false value in the things we have, cars we drive, and places we live, but in the way we love You by learning to give freely to others. May our hearts become like Yours, and may others see You in the love we show. Protect us from the lies in our own hearts that tell us to hold things tightly. Teach us to trust You in all situations. And please be our strength when we are weak so that we can become the generous, loving people You created us to be. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Key Scriptures

Matthew 6:19-24 (NLT)

"Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be. Your eye is like a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is filled with light. But when your eye is unhealthy, your whole body is filled with darkness. And if the light you think you have is actually darkness, how deep that darkness is! No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money."

1 Timothy 6:17-19 (NLT)

Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others. By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life.

1 Corinthians 3:11-15 (NLT)

For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have—Jesus Christ. Anyone who builds on that foundation may use a variety of materials—gold, silver, jewels, wood, hay, or straw. But on the judgment day, fire will reveal what kind of work each builder has done. The fire will show if a person's work has any value. If the work survives, that builder will receive a reward. But if the work is burned up, the builder will suffer great loss. The builder will be saved, but like someone barely escaping through a wall of flames.

Psalms 112:1-3 (NLT)

Praise the LORD! How joyful are those who fear the LORD and delight in obeying his commands. Their children will be successful everywhere; an entire generation of godly people will be blessed. They themselves will be wealthy, and their good deeds will last forever.