

Talk About It

Small Group Discussion Guide

Money On My Mind

October 12-15, 2023

Start Talking

What is the best Christmas/birthday gift you ever received and why? How do you feel about it today?

Main Idea

We are in Week 2 of the "Money On My Mind" series. Money is one of the most frequent topics in all of the Bible. God understands that money often competes for the allegiance of our hearts because of the false sense of security, status, and importance that it promises, but that only He can truly provide. We so often search for contentment and satisfaction in possessions and things—all the wrong places—because we haven't yet fully learned that contentment must first be in our hearts before we can be satisfied with the desires of our hearts. It must be a mindset before it can ever become a feeling. We are up against external and internal factors in the battle for contentment: the world insists that the next "thing" will provide it, and our brains are even wired with dopamine, serotonin, and endorphins that temporarily reward even greedy behavior. We need to rediscover the contentment that comes with working like it depends on us and trusting like it depends on God. Only then will the true value of "things" be in their rightful place far below having the hope of heaven in our hearts and the right relationships to share life with (family, friends, Small Group, Difference Maker team). So, as we seek greater contentment and satisfaction in life, let's tune in together to hear what God has to say!

Personalize It

1. What is the point of advertising? How is it designed to make you feel? When you purchase the item, how does that make you feel, and how long does the feeling last for you?
2. What does it mean that "contentment will be a mindset before it becomes a feeling"? Do you agree or disagree? Why?
3. Pastor Jackson shared that the unrelenting quest for "more" is rooted in a selfishness or trust issue. What does that mean? Does either of these resonate with you?
4. In John 4, Jesus offered the Samaritan woman entirely new "water" instead of more buckets for the same water. How does this analogy align with this conversation about material things?
5. What truly matters most in this life is your relationships with others. How are you investing in those around you? What can you start to increase your investment in this area?

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

1. "Is God's grace enough for me?" What does this mean for you in the context of career, finances, and possessions? Resolve to ask yourself this question when material matters arise—bill-paying, promotions, repairs, etc. It takes money to pay the bills, but is God's grace enough to keep your mind right during the journey?

2. Grade your investment in key areas of your life over the last 3-6 months and then develop 2-3 action steps that you can start (or stop) doing to help strengthen each one—faith life, marriage life, family life, financial life, social life, physical life, computer life, and work life.
3. Are you on track with your savings? Is your discretionary spending under control? Do you have a plan to get out of debt? Are you able to be as generous as you want to be? Make time to sit down with your spouse this week (or alone if single) and look honestly at how you are doing financially. If you are not where you want to be, *commit now* to joining a Financial Peace University class at Cypress next semester because money can be a wonderful servant, but it makes a terrible master. Freedom awaits! Financial Peace information can be found on the Cypress Church app under "Next Steps", the QR code during Cypress services, or [HERE](#).

Let's Pray

Father, we praise You for Your kindness, wisdom, mercy, and love. You knew us intimately before we lived a single day. You knew how much we would struggle with wanting things and then wanting even more, to the point that we would often place these things at the center of our lives, a place You meant only for You. We sacrifice physical health on the road to job promotions. We sacrifice relational health with family and friends while we chase security and luxury. And we confess that we have often made idols out of Your blessings. Forgive us for seeking in "things" the purpose, peace, security, and contentment that can only be found in You. Reveal your wisdom to us as we pray and search Your word for strength and guidance so we can keep these material blessings in proper perspective and might never again worship them as idols. Help us release these things to You and learn to trust Your sovereign, loving hand to meet all our needs and satisfy all our longings for true contentment. We trust You. Help us to trust You more. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Key Scriptures

Philippians 4:11 (NLT)

For I have learned how to be content with whatever I have.

Psalms 37:4 (NLT)

Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you your heart's desires.

Psalms 62:10 (NLT)

Don't make your living by extortion or put your hope in stealing. And if your wealth increases, don't make it the center of your life.

Matthew 6:24-27 (NLT)

"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. That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn't life more than food, and your body more than clothing? Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren't you far more valuable to him than they are? Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?"

Numbers 23:18-19 (NLT)

This was the message Balaam delivered: "Rise up, Balak, and listen! Hear me, son of Zippor. God is not a man, so he does not lie. He is not human, so he does not change his mind. Has he ever spoken and failed to act? Has he ever promised and not carried it through?"

Proverbs 23:4 (NLT)

Don't wear yourself out trying to get rich. Be wise enough to know when to quit.

2 Corinthians 12:2,8-9 (NLT)

I was caught up to the third heaven fourteen years ago...Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away. Each time he said, "My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness."