

FEARLESS

Embracing A Courageous Faith

Week 3: Fearless About Finances by Pastor Lester Zimmerman February 21, 2016

Worship: [10-15min]

Spend the first ten to fifteen minutes of your evening in worship.

If you don't have someone in the group that can lead, you can always...

- a. sing songs acapella – [for recommended songs see list attached in email]
- b. play a music cd
- c. play songs on YouTube – [To play three Petra songs on Youtube [click here](#). You'll notice the playlist to the right.]

Starter Questions: [15-20 min]

- This week, I'm thankful for...
- What quality do you appreciate most in a friend?

Discussion Questions: [45-60 min]

1. Read Matthew 25:14-30

- ? – If you could summarize the key principle of this story into one sentence, what truth is Jesus trying to communicate?
- ? – Based on this parable what do we learn our relationship with money should be?
- ? – What do we learn about our relationship to God based on this parable?
- ? – What attitude was keeping the man with one talent from using it?
- ? – In what ways do you see that attitude operating in yourself or others?

2. Read Matthew 17:24-27

- ? – Through this short story we see different social dynamics as Jesus, Peter, and the Roman government relate to money. What attitude does each of them show towards money in this particular story?
- ? – How does the lesson we learn from this story relate to the truth we learned from the last parable we just read in Matthew 25?

? – How does this story help you to overcome financial fears?

3. In the book, *The Fearless Life*, Jentezen Franklin describes some of the obstacles to living in God's blessings, and to living free from fear of finances:

- a. *Stinginess* – not wanting to surrender a sense of personal ownership of what you have
- b. *Laziness* – making choices that abdicate responsibility for yourself
- c. *Poverty Mentality* – expecting lack or disaster
- d. *Self-serving mentality* – thinking of my own benefit
- e. *Self-sufficient mentality* – your financial situation is totally dependent upon you

? – Which one of these do you think your coworkers or employer deals with most?

? – What are the symptoms that help you recognize these mentalities in others and yourself?

? – Which mentality does your family deal with most?

? – Arrange these in the order that are most applicable to you.

? – Looking at the mentality you struggle with the most, what are three practical steps you can take to break you out of it's habit and to replace it with truth?

4. On Sunday Pastor Lester said, "Learning generosity, gratefulness and contentment helps us overcome greed and fear. Being generous and grateful for what we have is one of the greatest things we can do to battle against fear and worry; greed and the love of money."

? – Do you have an experience with generosity or gratefulness that was transformative for you? How so?

Ministry Time: see next page

Ministry Time: [10-15min]

Confessing our fears to one another can help us identify them and break their destructive pattern in our lives. This exercise will help us identify and confess our fears to one another.

Step 1. Take a few minutes for each person to look over the following list of potential financial fears. Which one(s) are you most prone toward? Are there any personal fears that you need to add to the list below?

Step 2. In groups of 2's or 3's share which fears you are most prone towards and why.

Step 3. Take time to pray over each person in your group of 2 or 3. Break the power of fear, and ask God to display his provision, and protection, and peace in their lives.

Step 4. Look through the list of suggested scriptures below and have each person select one that is most meaningful to them. Then have them read that scripture as their declaration of truth against fear and anxiety.

Fear of Finances:

- a) that I won't have enough at retirement
- b) that I'll have to go into debt
- c) that all of my investments will be lost in the stock market
- d) that I will lose my job or my source of income
- e) that I will have to ask others for financial help
- f) that I will have to go on unemployment
- g) that a disaster, accident, or health crisis will wipe out all of my assets
- h) that my living arrangement will be taken away
- i) that I won't have enough for my children's education
- j) that I won't be able to afford nice things for my family
- k) that I will have to work two or three jobs just to get by
- l) Personal _____
- m) Personal _____
- n) Personal _____

Scriptures

- Philippians 4:19
- Psalms 37:25
- 2 Timothy 1:7
- Luke 6:38
- 2 Corinthians 9:11
- Jeremiah 29:11
- Hebrews 13:5
- Philippians 4:11-12
- Other _____