

small group discussion questions



The Christian and Finances

Message by Jim Wetzel
May 29th, 2016

Discussion Questions will discontinue during the months of June, July, and August and will resume in September.

Ice Breaker

- What is a summer activity or a summer mission that our group can do together? When?

Ideas: A cookout. Trip to the park. Trip to the Beach. Sports event. Weekend away together. ETC.

Ideas: Prayer walk. Summer barbeque for our neighborhood. Service project for someone in need.

Discussion Questions:

1. Which of these statements best describes how your parents, family, or environment taught you (by their habits) how to relate to money?
 - a. \$ is the root of all evil. Be scared of it. (Too much money is a sin.)
 - b. Lack of \$ shows you aren't blessed by God. (Too little of money shows you've sinned.)
 - c. \$ is the key to all security. Manage it well. Invest well. (Wasting money is a sin.)
 - d. \$ is the key to all pleasures, use it for what you want. (Money helps me to sin.)
 - e. When it's around, \$ can be spent on what we want or need.
 - f. Use \$ to steer people into what you want from them.
 - g. Use \$ to bless people and the work of God in their lives.

2. Read 1 Timothy 6:3-10

- Is there a verse from this passage that sticks out to you, or that the Holy Spirit is highlighting for your focus right now?
- What does it mean to you to live a simple lifestyle in the midst of an affluent and technologically sophisticated society?
- God is our All-Sufficient-One. Our lives should resonate with this, "God if I lost all of this, you are more than enough for me." Yet in Matthew 13:22 we see that some people are like seed that falls among thorns, "the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful."

What temptations tend to lead you off the track of simplicity and contentment?

3. Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19

- In verse 17 we see that God provides the things that we need for our *enjoyment*. What is something that has brought enjoyment to you as a result of God's blessings! I.e. a family vacation, quality food, traveling, investment in a hobby, boat for leisure, etc.
- Verse 18 commands us to be rich in good deeds. Read this quote from Sunday.

"If there be nothing so glorious as doing good, if there is nothing that makes us so like God, then nothing can be so glorious in the use of our money, as to use it all in works of love and goodness, making ourselves friends, and fathers, and benefactors, to all our fellow creatures, imitating the Divine love, and turning all our power into acts of generosity, care, and kindness to such as are in need of it." ~William Law:

What is one action you can take or habit you can form to begin being generous in your relationships with your money?

Ministry Time:

Have each person answer this question. What is one way that the group can be praying for you? Spend ten minutes as a collective group spontaneously praying for each other's stated needs.

Then write everyone's name on a piece of paper. Draw a name out of a hat and, for the next month, pray for the person whose name you drew from the hat.