

## **LIFE GROUP GUIDE wb 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2023**

### **Key passage Matthew 6:19-34**

**This Week's BIG IDEA:** Vision matters and having a vision in line with God's vision matters most of all. However, Jesus recognises that the stuff of life so often distracts us from God's kingdom call on our lives. As we spend the next couple of weeks refreshing our vision, we will focus this week on how we deal with realities of life without losing sight of our eternal calling.

### **Fixing our eyes on God**

One of the primary ways that we stop ourselves getting overwhelmed by the "stuff" of life is through worship. Worship lifts our heads to the realities of who God is, even in the midst of the worries of life. Spend some time meditating on these verses from the psalms and let them stir prayers, and even songs, of praise.

**Psalm 34:1-9**

**Psalm 95:1-7**

**Psalm 100:1-5**

**Psalm 103:1-6**

**Psalm 111:1-5**

### **Opening God's word**

- i) Please read Matthew 6:19-20, 24 and Luke 12:13-21

What do you think Jesus is trying to say about the role of money and possessions in our lives?

What danger can wealth pose to Christians? (1 Tim 6:10)

Compare what Jesus says here with Proverbs 6:6-11 and 1 Tim 5:8. What do you think is an appropriate level of "storing up" for those following and trusting in Jesus?

- ii) Please read Matthew 6:25-31

Jesus asks the question – Why do you worry? In a semi – rhetorical way. But the question remains, Why do you think we worry about the necessities of life?

Jesus' list of food, clothes and "drink" are illustrative, not exhaustive. What areas of life do you tend to worry about?

- iii) Please read Matthew 6 verses 20, 24, 26,28,32, 33

What are the positive activities that Jesus encourages us to do that will help change our perspective and make space for God's Kingdom vision?

- iv) In the sermon this week we discovered that the word for "healthy" carries the same root meaning as the word "generous" (Romans 12:8).

What do you think it might mean to have a "generous" vision and how might such a vision shape our day to day lives?

### **Time to pray.**

At the start of this weeks preach we were encouraged to write up to 7 words that described what is going on in our lives at this time. The bible never denies the pressures of life and encourages us to be open and honest with God and with one another (eg Psalm 13) Spend some time praying for one another and inviting the peace of God into the situations you have shared.