

## Where's the Faith? Money Matters!

### Discussion Questions:

- What are some of the thoughts and ideas about money you grew up with? Generally speaking, did you think of money as a good thing or a bad thing?
- Growing up, did you generally view wealthy people as good people who were wealthy because they were blessed or bad people who were wealthy because they were greedy?
- Why do you think we are so quick to trust in money?
- Where is the line between good stewardship/planning and trusting in God? For example, is financial investing godly and wise or worldly and foolish?
- Why does money drive so many people to mistreat others? What do you think is behind this kind of thinking and action?
- How do you currently use your finances to invest in the Kingdom? Do you think God wants you to invest more in the Kingdom? If yes, why? If not, why not?
- We said that when Jesus is Lord of our finances, we give generously, regularly, sacrificially, and cheerfully. Which of those is easiest for you? Which is most challenging?
- Is there ever a time when you should not give sacrificially? Why or why not?
- Why is the "Prosperity Gospel" so alluring? What are the good elements of it, if any? What are the dangerous elements of it, if any?

### "Controversial conversations" about money and Christianity to explore:

- Tithing is definitely commanded of the Jewish people in the Old Testament. Is it a New Testament teaching we should follow today or just the principle of giving?
- Can you "tithe" to a para-church/charity, or just the local church? If you support a Christian charity, does that replace tithing to a church?
- Should you tithe to a church if you disagree with the church, its leadership, its direction, its teaching, etc? If yes, why? If not, why not? Should you do something instead?
- Do you think some Christians use the verse "the love of money is the root of all evil" as a cop-out answer to not work hard? If so, what would you say to them?
- Should Christians purchase insurance or simply trust in God? If so, which ones? Life insurance? Short term disability insurance? Critical illness insurance?

- Is retirement a biblical idea? If yes, why? If not, why not? Does that make it unbiblical (wrong) or non-biblical (neither right nor wrong)? Is saving for and enjoying retirement a biblical idea? Why or why not?
- We think of Canada and the United States as being founded as Christian countries. Is capitalism a Christian concept? Why or why not?
- In what ways does capitalism aid Christianity and the church? In what ways does capitalism hinder Christianity and the church?