

Leadership Tip!

Talking about money in a small group setting can be awkward, but it doesn't have to be that way. Just keep the questions focused on Biblical principles and what people think of them.

SPENT
"Money Margin"

STARTER QUESTIONS:

What percentage of "million-dollar plus" lottery winners do you think still have most of their winnings after five years? (Less than 30%)

What percentage of "million-dollar plus" lottery winners do you think have any winnings left to pass on to their grandchildren in their wills? (Less than 1%)

MAIN IDEA:

Learning to live within God's current provision means to be God centered no matter what comes our way. This is something we can learn, use and pass on to generations to come.

Philippians 4:6-13 NIV

"⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. ⁹ Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. ¹⁰ I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. ¹¹ I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. ¹² I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. ¹³ I can do all this through him who gives me strength."

Why do you think that “thanksgiving” is part of the secret to contentment?

(Thanksgiving- “the expression of gratitude, especially to God”) -OXFORD

“Thanksgiving” is not a feeling. It is an action. It is the willingness to response to God’s provision in our own lives and in those around us.

How does this expression fit into what we were talking about last week?

Beliefs – Decisions - Outcome

How can we tie in Jesus’ words from Matthew 6:24-26 here?

Why do Jesus’ words help us stop striving towards self-sufficiency?

What does verses 12-13 in Philippians 4 say about Paul’s view of self-sufficiency?

Look at 2 Corinthians 12:9; how can Christ’s power be perfect here?

FINAL THOUGHTS:

A lot of people view Matthew 6:24 as Jesus condemning the rich but nothing is further from the truth. What Jesus was saying is that we should never place anything above God. Striving for “self-sufficiency” means we believe in our own abilities above that of God’s. Not only is this thinking foolish, because none of us knows what tomorrow will bring, but it is also destructive in the amount of fear and anxiety it can bring into our lives. I said this before, but it is worth repeating, There is a big difference in “believing in God’ and “Believing God”. Believing God means we are good stewards with the provision God gives us, each according to our abilities.

Every faculty you have, your power of thinking or of moving your limbs from moment to moment, is given you by God. If you devoted every moment of your whole life exclusively to His service, you could not give Him anything that was not in a sense His own already.

– C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

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November 20, 2016

Record Debt:

- In 2014, consumer debt reached an all-time high of \$3.2 Trillion.
- Just 51% of us have more emergency savings than credit card debt.
- Our average credit card debt is \$15,216.

“... the borrower is servant to the lender.”

Proverbs 22:7 (NLT)

“Despite the warning, the temptation to spend, spend, spend is so strong that many of us close the shackles around our own wrists.”

-Jamie Munson in “Money: God or Gift”

“I’ve got to learn to live within God’s current provision for my life.”

“Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God’s peace.”

Philippians 4:6-7 (NLT)

“His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus and... fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable.”

Philippians 4:7-8 (NLT)

“Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me—everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you.”

Philippians 4:9 (NLT)

“I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.” Philippians 4:11 (NIV)

“I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.”

Philippians 4:12 (NIV)

“I can do all this through him who gives me strength.” Philippians 4:13 (NIV)

The great secret to Paul’s contentment was not self-sufficiency.
It was God-sufficiency.