

Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

Series: **MONEY TALKS**

Part 1

May 28, 2017



Connect (10min)

* **Finish these statements:**

- > One Summer event I'm looking forward to is _____.
- > I am BLESSED today because _____.
- > I am a BLESSING to _____ by _____.

Check-In (15min)

* **What are 1-2 things you've learned and applied from your devotions this past week?**

* **Do you have a plan or focus for your devotions in June? Do you need any ideas or accountability?**

Pray: Have one of your Group members Pray for your Group as you begin your Discussion.

Sunday Message Feedback (40min)

* **Pastor Shawn** begins our short series called *MONEY TALKS*.

1. If money could talk what do you think it would say?

If *your money* could talk what do you think it would say?

2. Are you comfortable talking about money? Do you tend to worry about money? Why/why not?

3. Our Life in a Dresser - Pastor Shawn talked about how easy it is to compartmentalize our lives.

He used the illustration of a dresser and its drawers. The danger in compartmentalizing our life is that we lose the truth of the Christian life by failing to make Jesus Lord of everything. Do you tend to compartmentalize your faith? If so, do you tend to keep your finances away from God? If so, why? Why do we tend to keep the drawer of finances closed to God? Discuss.

4. "The way we spend money is a good indicator of who we love."

How and when do you see this most clearly in your life?

5. The Truth in our Treasures

Read [Matthew 6:19-21](#). What sticks out to you about these verses?

Read [verse 21](#) again. We sometimes think of this concepts backwards: Where my heart is, my treasure will go. We think that if we have a good heart, our money will naturally follow. But this verse says that what we do with our money is the indicator of where our heart is. Can you give an example of this?

Read [Matthew 6:24](#).

a. How is this statement from Jesus true? Can you think of any examples in your own life?

Read [Matthew 6:25-34](#)

b. How does living a life of generosity release the hold of fear and worry on our lives? Discuss.

6. The Heart of the Issue

When God asks for a tithe ([Read Deut. 14:23 & Malachi 3:6-10](#)), it's not because He needs it.

God doesn't need us to give money to His work. What He wants is our heart.

How does tithing (giving 10% of your income to God's work through your church) follow the teaching of Jesus in Matthew 6:21?

7. Spare Some Change?

Take a few minutes and discuss what your church/community could be like if we all followed this command of God to live generous lives. How would our hearts change? How would the world change?

Application & Prayer (20min)

The order of Stewardship/Budgeting we see taught by God throughout Scripture is *Give-Save-Live* (or *Spend*).

The typical order of Stewardship/Budgeting practiced in the world is *Spend-Save-Give*.

(with saving and giving being rare, if not non-existent components)

- a. How have you experienced the impact of these two contrasting paths in our world, and perhaps your own life/family?
- b. How would your life, the church, and our society change if we intentionally decided to live with God's plan?
 1. *Give* – decide in purpose & details advance, make this the first step in your budget (by % usually works best)
 2. *Save* – decide in purpose & details advance...
 3. *Live* – live off what remains, again with healthy purpose and practice. Get some coaching if needed.

PRAY in response to God's generosity and our opportunities in financial stewardship.

*Thank you God for providing _____.

*Help me/us to learn & grow in _____.

*Please bless me in _____ and make me a blessing to/through _____.

Announcements

NEXT STEPS

Sun. June 4. 12:15pm. Conference Rm. A. Lunch & Childcare provided.

Has everyone in your Group attended at Next Steps event?

MAIN STREET CHURCH AGM Celebration

Wed. June 14. 7pm. Chapel/Cafe.

FATHER'S DAY SUNDAY

Sun. June 18.

CONFIRM your remaining Life Group meetings and wrap-up date before the Summer Break.