

Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

:: The **GENEROUS Life** – Part 2 – GOD or MONEY :: November 8, 2015



Welcome & Prayer

Father God, everything belongs to you. Holy Spirit, help us to be wise, generous & thankful stewards of the gifts, talents, opportunities & resources you've blessed us with. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Connect

1. Have 1-2 people share their story/testimony (5-10min each) &/or
2. Questions for the Group
 - a. What is 1 thing we don't know about you?
 - b. With Remembrance Day...what is reason you are thankful to live in Canada?

Check In

- :: Each time we meet as a Group we'll take a few minutes to share a bit about how we're learning & growing in our personal journey with GOD. This is for accountability & encouragement.
- :: What has God been showing you or speaking to you about in your personal time with Him this past week? (eg. through Bible reading, Prayer, Journaling, Devotions, Worship, time in Creation...)
- :: How can we as a group encourage one another to spend intentional time with Jesus?

Sunday Message Feedback

1. **As a Kid** -- Did you get an allowance? What was the first job you got paid for, and what was one of things you first saved-up for or spent money on?
As an Adult -- Do you tend to be a spender or a saver? Discuss.

Food for Thought

“One of the dangers of having a lot of money is that you may be quite satisfied with the kinds of happiness money can give, and so fail to realize your need for God. If everything seems to come simply by signing checks, you may forget that you are at every moment totally dependent on God. Now, quite plainly natural gifts carry with them a similar danger. If you have sound nerves and intelligence and health and popularity and a good upbringing, you are likely to be quite satisfied with your character as it is. “Why drag God into it?” you may ask. A certain level of good conduct comes fairly easily to you. You are not one of those wretched creatures who are always being tripped up by sex or dipsomania or nervousness or bad temper. Everyone says you are a nice chap, and between ourselves, you agree with them. You are quite likely to believe that all this niceness is your own doing, and you may easily not feel the need for any better kind of goodness. Often people who have all these natural kinds of goodness cannot be brought to recognize their need for Christ at all until one day, the natural goodness lets them down, and their self-satisfaction is shattered. In other words, it is hard for those who are rich in this sense to enter the kingdom.” “All that we call human history--money, poverty, ambition, war, prostitution, classes, empires, slavery--[is] the long terrible story of man trying to find something other than God which will make him happy.” – C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*.

What jumped out at you from Sunday's Message?

- : Which particular point or passage of Scripture most challenged, confused or caught your attention?
- : What did Jesus say to you to you this past week through the message?

2. Shawn talked about the power money can have over us.

:: Why should we be concerned with freeing ourselves from the love of money? Discuss.

3. Read Matthew 6:19-34 (Have group members listen or read along and look for anything that jumps out at them from this passage).

:: What stands out to you personally from this passage? |

4. Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19

:: Has the power of money ever affected a relationship in your life? If so, how?

5. Re-read Matthew 6:22-23

a. Have you ever wanted something just because you saw it?

What was it and why did you want it? How do you feel about it now that time has passed?

b. The sin of greed is often the hardest sin to self-identify? Would you agree? If so, why do you think it is so hard to see in ourselves? How has this been true in your own life?

6. Shawn talked about how money and worry are partners in crime.

:: How has this been true in your experience? Do you tend to worry about finances? Discuss.

7. Read 1 Timothy 6:6-10 and re-read Matthew 6:25-27

a. What worry or priority in your life do you need to surrender that keeps you from being generous. How can you practically surrender that worry?

8. Re-read Matthew 6:33-34

a. What do you think it means to "seek first the Kingdom" and "lay-up treasure in Heaven" when it comes to money? What does this look like in daily life?

: What would have to change in your life to do what Jesus tells us to do?

Application & Prayer

(Split into groups of 3-4 people or men & women and have them share and pray for each other)

***When we trust Jesus, we'll manage His money.**

***When we distrust Jesus, we act like owners of our money.**

What action steps do you need to take in your life to move from trusting money to trusting God?

***Take some time to PRAY over each group members' identified action steps and life issues.**

***Challenge your Group to memorize Matthew 6:21**

"Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be."

Next Life Group

:: Date/Location: _____. :: Snack/Refreshments? _____.

Coming Up at Main Street

:: **Hunger to Hope – Christmas Hamper Campaign**

*Referring &/or Sponsoring a Hamper. (Leaders: refer to the info/email Pastor Eryn sent you)

:: **Encounter God**

November 13-14. Is anyone in our Group going?

:: **Next Steps**

Sunday, November 15th. 12:15pm Lunch. Has anyone in our Group not attended a Next Steps event yet?

:: **A Simple Christmas – Ladies Dessert Night**

Friday, November 27th. Tickets are \$5 & selling fast - available in the foyer on Sunday, or through the office Mon-Thurs.

:: **The Three Wisemen – A Heart Warming & Hilarious Christmas Trio**

Saturday, December 12th. 7pm at Main Street Church. www.thethreewisemen.com

Tickets are \$10 & will sell fast - available in the foyer on Sunday or at the church office Mon-Thurs.