



ROOTED

Week 8 Group Guide How Does God View Money?

Icebreaker

If you were independently wealthy and you never had to work again, what would you do with your time? OR What was the worst job you ever had? Did you learn anything during your time there?

Overview of the Main Theme

This week, we are discussing money! For some of you, this week's discussion time might be a bit uncomfortable. Perhaps you were taught as a child that it is impolite to discuss money with others. For some of you, this discussion won't feel uncomfortable at all. Scripture has a lot to say about money and how we spend it. As the *Rooted* book points out, "Jesus taught more on money than faith and prayer--more than anything else except for the Kingdom of God." Money can have a unique control over our lives, and God wants it to not have too much power over us.

Prayer

God, everything that we have, our money included, comes from you and belongs to you. Guide our conversation today, God. Help us to share openly with one another about our struggles and the way we might give money too much power in our lives. Help us to be open to the work of the Holy Spirit in aligning our hearts with you. Amen.

Story Sharing

Remember, if it is your turn to share, try to keep it to 5-7 minutes. Ask someone in your group to time you!

Group Discussion Time

Jesus spoke more about money than any other topic, except for the Kingdom of God. Matthew 6:19-21, 24 are some of the most powerful words Jesus taught about money. ***What are 3-4 of the most important lessons you get from these verses?***

Even though Jesus (and the entire Bible) is clear about generosity and faithful giving to support the church and mission, so many of us really struggle with this. ***Why is this such an area of struggle for so many Christians? Make a list of the top 4-5 things that make generosity a challenge for us.***

The Bible teaches that you are a steward entrusted with resources that belong to God. Our culture says you are a customer, a consumer, and an owner. There is a world of difference between stewardship and ownership. ***What is keeping you from being a good steward? And... What are some practical things you can do to grow as a steward and resist the owner mindset?***

This follows out of the previous question. Money management that avoids debt is crucial to stewardship. ***Share with the group some of your "best practices" for how you manage money and avoid debt.***

For Personal Application

Take a moment and decide - what is the next best step you can take to grow as a steward, to practice generosity, and to give faithfully to God's work? (You do not have to discuss this in your group.)

Group Discernment

After the group sharing, discover how God has been speaking. Look for a common thread or a core theme that is being revealed through the study and conversation. You have been listening to one another and NOW, together, you listen to what Jesus is saying. What is the next step that God would like you to take this week?

Closing Prayer

God, we want to have a right relationship with money. We don't want to make an idol of it, or give it too much importance in our lives. Help us to be a manager of our finances and not owners. Please provide for our physical and financial needs. Help us to get our debt under control. Help us to trust in you. We love you, God. Amen.

Reminders for Next Week

1. *Rooted* chapter 9 is all about telling others about Jesus. Please work through those five devotionals for next week.
2. Who wants to be ready to share their story?
3. Is anyone going to bring a snack (if your group is doing that)?
4. Anything else?

How to Give at Living Word

The first next best step you can take is to start giving or change your giving patterns. The ministry of Living Word is funded by the generous donations of members and attenders of the church. There are multiple ways to give at Living Word.

Here are several ways to give:

Use the Living Word APP or the WEBSITE at www.lwccyork.com/give.

It will take 3 or 4 minutes to set up your account and to enter your information. You do this only once. You will be able to set up recurring donations and you can give via bank account or credit card.

Write a check and mail it to:

LWCC
2530 Cape Horn Road
Red Lion, PA 17356