NEW HEIGHTS
CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
"Our Heart is People. Our Message is Jesus."

Table Group Discussion Guide

Series: The Spacious Life | Title: "What Do We Do With Our Money?" | November 1, 2026

*Please respect each other by keeping confidential what someone else has shared during the group time. This helps to keep the environment a safe place to show our wounds and find healing.

Looking Back (5-10 minutes)

Last week's practice: pick one small spiritual practice — pray, give, or fast — and do it where nobody could see it. No posting, no mentioning, no working it into a conversation. We were practicing **joy**, one of the nine things Paul says in Galatians 5:22–23 that the Spirit grows in a person: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

Heads up — this one's a little different. Don't tell the group what you did. That was the whole point. Just talk about what it was like.

1. Did you feel the pull to tell somebody? When did it hit — right after, or later? And what was it like to let it stay hidden?

Getting Started (15 minutes)

Jeff told the story of flipping a Monopoly board as a kid — the hotels go up, you keep paying out, and at some point something in you just goes no, we're done. A lot of us feel that way about money conversations generally.

2. What's your gut reaction when a church brings up money? Be honest — the group can take it. Where did that reaction come from?

Money carries different meanings for different people. For some it mostly means **security** — a roof, food, not being caught out. For some it means **enjoyment** — the meal out, the trip. And for some it means **status** — what it says about you.

3. Which one is money mostly about for you? And if you're married or close to family, do you think they'd guess the same one?

Getting Into the Word (25 minutes)

Scripture: **Matthew 6:19-24, Matthew 19:16-22**

Read **Matthew 6:19-21**. Notice Jesus doesn't say don't store anything up — he assumes you will. The question is where. And then he gives the reason: your heart will always follow your treasure.

4. Where have you watched that happen — you put money into something and then found yourself caring about it more than you expected? A car, a house, a team, a stock, a hobby, a kid's activity. What did it do to your attention?

Read **Matthew 19:16–22**. A man asks what he's missing, and Jesus tells him to sell what he owns and give it to the poor — and then says you will have treasure in heaven. This isn't Jesus' standard advice; he doesn't say it to everyone. But he knew something about this particular man. And notice where treasure in heaven turns out to be: not a reward waiting somewhere else, but money put into what God is already doing here.

5. If Jesus knew the one thing you're holding onto — the thing that would be hardest to let go of — what do you think it would be? It doesn't have to be money.

Going Deeper with Each Other (25 minutes) *If your group has more than eight people, split into circles of three or four for these questions and come back together to pray.

Read **Matthew 6:24** again. Jesus doesn't say serving both is hard. He says you **can't**. And he does something here he does nowhere else in the sermon on the mount — he gives money a name and makes it a master. Anger, lust, words, prayer: none of those get called a rival lord. Only this one.

6. Where does money function like a master in your life — where does it get the final say? Think about a decision you made in the last year where the money made the call, and ask whether you'd make it the same way again.

Jim Elliot, a missionary killed in Ecuador in his twenties, wrote in his journal: he is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose. And Jeff was honest about his own cynicism — a season where he'd seen money used badly by people who should have known better, and wasn't ready to trust anyone with it. The fight he picked wasn't really about tithing. It was a wound.

7. Is there a wound underneath how you handle money? Something you watched growing up, something that happened to you, something a church did. You don't have to give details — just say whether there's something there.

Pray for Each Other (10 minutes) *Before you start: some of us have been following Jesus for a long time, some are newer at it, and some are still figuring out what they believe. All of that is welcome at this table. Nobody has to pray out loud, and nobody has to agree with something they haven't decided on yet.

Come back together as a whole group. Go around the circle. Each person says one thing they want to hand over to God when it comes to money — a worry, a grip, a wound, a decision coming up. Just name it. You don't have to pray it, and you don't have to explain it.

Then go around a second time, and this time each person prays a short prayer for the person on their right — using what they said.

If you'd rather not pray out loud, say pass and the next person will pick it up. That's completely fine.

Close by praying for whatever else came up tonight.

One Thing to Carry into the Week

This week we're practicing **kindness**. (Galatians 5:22)

Open your bank app. Just open it. And look at the last month. Don't judge it. Don't fix it. Just look at it. And ask one question: If somebody who didn't know me looked at this list, what would they say I love?

Then pick one thing — one — and give it away this week. Not a pledge, not a plan. Something that actually leaves your hands before Sunday.