



Small Group Discussion Questions

Series: Glimpses of the Kingdom

Title: "Being Rich Toward God"

Icebreaker / Getting Started (10-15 minutes)

1. What stood out to you most from the sermon—maybe a phrase, story, or idea (like the moving boxes/truck analogy for accumulating stuff, the personal story of trusting God in lean ministry seasons, Lauren Winner's quote on tithing as transformative, or the idea that "possessions possess")? Why did it hit you? (Quick shares to connect personally and highlight resonances with greed's lies or Kingdom freedom.)
2. The sermon describes parables as glimpses of the kingdom that require "imaginative participation" and "squinting" to see, rather than simple morals. Have you ever had a Bible story (or even a non-Bible story) that confused or disrupted you at first but later revealed something deeper about life, money, or God? Share briefly. (Encourage short examples to prime the group for engaging the parable imaginatively and wrestling with personal application.)

Digging into the Scripture & Sermon (15-20 minutes)

3. Read Luke 12:13-34 together as a group (or divide sections: vv. 13-21 parable; vv. 22-31 worry/provision; vv. 32-34 seek Kingdom/give). The sermon frames the rich man's request as a "fairness" issue that Jesus reframes as greed. How does this shift—from seeing money problems as justice/fairness to guarding against greed—change how we approach possessions, inheritance, or financial conflicts? (Reference the sermon's point: Greed lies to us that life is measured by possessions, accumulation is the answer, and comfort is the goal.)
4. Jesus tells a shocking story of a "rich fool" who builds bigger barns for security and ease, only to hear God call him a fool because his soul is required that night. Why do you think Jesus chose this abrupt, sobering twist (death interrupting plans) to expose greed? In our world today, who or what might represent a "bigger barn" we build (e.g., career, savings, lifestyle upgrades) thinking it guarantees security or comfort?
5. The sermon highlights three ways to be "rich toward God" as the antidote to greed's lies:
 - Trust in God's care (don't worry; consider ravens/lilies; God feeds/clothes them—how much more you?).
 - Seek God's perspective and priorities (seek first the Kingdom; desire what lasts eternally, not temporary stuff; the Kingdom is the biggest barn).

- Give generously to others (sell/give to the needy; treasure in heaven; tithing as training wheels for generosity and heart freedom). Which of these three feels most convicting or relatable to you right now, and why? Share an example from your life (e.g., seasons of dependence vs. self-reliance, or struggles with worry/generosity).

Personal Application & Reflection (15-20 minutes)

6. The sermon says the kingdom of God looks like being "rich toward God"—storing up what lasts eternally, not hoarding what decays or gets left behind. Where in your life do you see greed's lies creeping in (e.g., measuring worth by possessions, chasing comfort/security through accumulation, or believing "it's all up to me")? What "stuff" has accumulated that might be binding your heart? How might Jesus be inviting you to "squint" and see freedom in trusting His care instead?
7. Jesus models ultimate generosity: Though rich, He became poor so we could become rich through His poverty (2 Cor. 8:9). How does remembering that we were once "empty-handed" at the cross (receiving lavish grace we couldn't earn) change how you view worry about provision or giving generously? (Tie to the sermon's point: Jesus is always the most extravagant in the relationship; our generosity flows from His.)
8. The sermon ends with: Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. God wants all of your heart, not your money—generosity (starting small, like 1% tithing) disentangles us from greed and aligns us with the Kingdom. Who or what in your life this week (family, church, community, or a cause) might Jesus want you to invest in generously—time, money, or resources—to build "treasure in heaven"? (Think practical steps: increasing giving, helping someone in need, or shifting priorities toward Kingdom impact.)

Prayer & Action Steps (10 minutes)

9. In pairs (as the sermon models communal response at communion), ask each other: "How can I bless/pray for you this week in the area of trust, generosity, or Kingdom priorities?" (e.g., accountability on giving, prayer against worry, support in a financial need). Then pray a simple blessing over that person/need.
10. As a closing prayer, invite the group to ask the Holy Spirit: "Lord, what is one way I can be 'rich toward You' this week—trusting Your care more, seeking Your Kingdom first, or giving generously?" Share any promptings (e.g., start/increase tithing, downsize possessions, help someone financially, pray daily against greed's lies). Commit to following through and checking in next time for accountability and stories of Kingdom glimpses.