

Table Group Discussion Guide

Series: Practical Wisdom | Title: "How Do I Manage Wealth?" | August 9, 2026

A note for leaders: This is a sensitive topic and people are at very different places financially. Nobody should feel pressure to disclose numbers, income, or debt. Set that expectation out loud at the start — we're talking about posture, not amounts.

Start Here (5 minutes)

1. What's something you bought that you were sure you needed — and then barely used? No judgment. We've all got one.

Getting to Know Each Other (10 minutes)

2. The sermon pointed out that a single U.S. adult making \$50,000 a year is wealthier than 97% of the world — even after adjusting for cost of living. And then said: "I know. You don't feel it." What did you grow up believing about money — whether anyone said it out loud or not? Was money scarce, plentiful, talked about, or never mentioned? How is that still shaping you?

Getting Into the Word (20 minutes)

Read together: **Proverbs 22:2, Proverbs 23:4–5, Proverbs 30:7–9, Proverbs 19:17, and Matthew 6:24**

Lesson one: **God is the source of everything you have.** Deuteronomy 8 warned Israel not to say "*my hand has gotten me this wealth.*" The sermon added that in a fallen world, the link between effort and outcome is sometimes broken — sometimes wealth comes from exploitation, and sometimes poverty comes from injustice.

3. Where are you most tempted to say "my hand got me this"? And on the flip side — have you ever done everything right and still not gotten the outcome? What did that do to your view of God?

Lesson two: **both wealth and poverty can bring trouble**. Proverbs 30 prays for “neither poverty nor riches” — because too much might make us disown God, and too little might make us steal and dishonor him. Jeff admitted: “Most of us would rather pray, Lord, no poverty — but yes, riches.”

4. Could you honestly pray the Proverbs 30 prayer? What in you resists it? Which trouble do you think you’d handle worse — having too much, or having too little?

Jesus in Matthew 6:24 says **you cannot serve both God and money**. The point was this: the temptation of our culture is to serve money and use God — and the invitation of Jesus is to serve God and use money.

5. Where have you seen the first version — serving money while using God — in the culture, in the church, or honestly in yourself? What does it actually look like day to day?

Going Deeper with Each Other (20 minutes)

The sermon’s one point is a ladder: **gratitude fuels contentment, and contentment makes generosity possible**. You can’t skip to the top.

6. Which rung are you standing on right now — and which one is hardest? Be specific about why.

The Benedictine monastery told Eugene Peterson: *“If while you’re here you find that there’s something you need, please come talk to one of the brothers, and we will help you live without it.”* Jeff also named the line between solving problems with money and eliminating inconveniences with it — and said the second one is endless.

7. Where in your life have you crossed from solving a problem into eliminating an inconvenience? What would it feel like to have someone offer to help you live without something instead of helping you get it?

The sermon suggested the real barrier to generosity isn't stinginess — it's that "the infection of consumerism has gotten into us," so there are too many things we're convinced we need. "I'll be generous when I'm done meeting all my needs."

8. What's something currently in your "needs" column that might actually belong in the "wants" column? **ACTION BONUS:** Take the sermon's challenge. Name out loud one \$10 item you'll live without this week — and if you're feeling brave, one \$100 item this month. Write it down. Report back next time.

Coming Back to Where You Started (5 minutes)

The sermon ended not with a giving strategy but with a word: freedom. Freedom from the entrapment, the pressure, the weight, the race and the chase and the climb.

9. Where would freedom in this area actually change your daily life? What would be different if the pressure came off?

Pray for Each Other (10 minutes)

Start at the bottom rung. Go around the table and have each person name **five things they're grateful for** — out loud, right now. Not spiritual-sounding answers. Real ones. The group can help if someone gets stuck.

Then pray together the prayer from Sunday, slowly, out loud as a group:

"Father, you are an abundant giver. There is nothing I have that you have not given me. The way of your kingdom is the way of generosity. Freely I have received, freely may I give. Help us to honor you with our resources. Free us from the deceit of riches. Lead us on the path of generosity. For your glory, for our good, and for the sake of the world. Amen."

Then close by praying for any specific financial pressure someone named — by name, out loud, before you leave.

One Thing to Carry into the Week

Start the ladder at the bottom. Tomorrow morning, write down five things you're thankful for — journal, phone note, whatever you'll actually use. Tuesday, review that list and add to it. Wednesday, same. Keep building it all week.

The sermon's claim is that contentment gets easier when gratitude goes first — and that generosity follows from there. Test it. Come back and tell someone whether anything shifted.