

Rooted
Financially Rooted in God's Wisdom
Selected Scriptures | January 20 & 24, 2021
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Getting Started: (Choose one or two questions to begin your time together.)

- What messages does our culture send about the power of self and the need to be self-sufficient?
- How are these messages different from the message of the Christian faith? Are there any similarities?
- In what area of your life are you most drawn to self-sufficiency or selfishness—family, work, church, friendships?

Let's talk further about the current situation.

- How are you feeling about the current climate of our world?
- What are you looking forward to?
- What gives you hope right now?

(The aim is NOT to cover all the questions below but to use one or two from each section to help us think about what we actually believe.)

Section One: When you think about the sermon what comes to mind?

Read 2 Corinthians 9: 6-11

- We sometimes tend to avoid verses about money and possessions because they make us feel uncomfortable or even guilty. As you consider this Scripture, what, if anything, intrigues you or stirs within you a desire for what the verses describe?
- What words and illustrations are used to describe the attitude about giving that God will honor?
- What does this passage list as the outcomes or fruit of Christian generosity?
- What is God's purpose in providing the giver everything he or she needs?
- Do you agree or disagree with the statement that "Giving is a tangible expression of our trust in God."? Why?
- What does it mean that we live in a sowing and reaping world?

Section Two: What are you noticing about your actual experience in this life?

- How would you describe the standard by which you and the people you know tend to assess financial status - both your own and that of others?
- What attributes make someone wealthy or poor or average?
- How do you respond to the idea of using the living conditions in the developing world as the standard for determining relative wealth or poverty? Does it seem meaningful to you or is it hard to relate to? Why?
- The average person living in Georgia will make \$2.4 million dollars over the course of their working years. Does that change how you view your money situation? Why or why not?
- If you had to, what percentage of your current income could you live on?

Section Three: What is unsettled in you?

- What things might get in the way of reorienting your finances?
- What kinds of things tend to get in the way of your ability to be generous?
- Is the life you live as counter-cultural as the one Jesus described in His teachings? Why or why not? In what area might it need to be more so?
- Why is it often hard to remember our brokenness and need for God?

Suggested Spiritual Practices for this week — BE with Jesus, BECOME like Jesus, DO what Jesus did!

- A. Prayer. Pray for Jesus to give you opportunities to be generous to someone else this week.
- B. Reading and Responding. Join the 21 days of Prayer every day this week.
- C. Action! Commit to take the 90-day tithing challenge and partner with someone else doing the challenge. Pray for each other the entire 90 days.

Closing: Offer a prayer.

- Pray for the church to lead the way in unity and healing in our nation.
- Pray for the courage to follow God leading when it comes to money.
- Pray for God's kingdom to come and his will to be done.
- Pray for our world, seek the Lord's intervention and direction.