

This guide is intended to help you be better prepared to make disciples in your small group. It is based on the Sunday sermon listed in the top right corner. If you missed Sunday, make sure you listen to the sermon before your small group meeting. The messages are also on our website.

Prayerfully considering these questions will help equip you to practice mutual ministry with your family at Vertical. While it's not likely that all of these questions will be asked during your small group meeting, we believe that your personal walk with Christ will be strengthened as you meditate upon the truths that God is teaching you through His Word.

1. Of the four kinds of hearts Jesus is speaking to (Consumer, Critic, Careless/Curious, Committed), which do you most closely resemble when it comes to giving? Why did you choose that answer?
2. Jesus contrasts earthly treasures with heavenly treasures in Matthew 6:19-21. What are some specific examples of each in your own life? What earthly treasures are you tempted to stockpile that won't last? What heavenly treasures could you be investing in instead?
3. Jesus states that "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." What does your spending over the past month reveal about where your heart truly is? In what ways does this convict or encourage you?
4. How do you see the "American Dream" described in Matthew 6:19? Have you bought into this dream? What are you willing to let go of to invest eternally, as described in Matthew 6:20?
5. Discuss the statement: "Generosity isn't a money problem. It's a seeing problem." What does this mean? How does our vision of God's kingdom affect our generosity?
6. Review Paul's Plan for Giving in 1 Corinthians 16:2 (Prioritize, Personalize, Practice, Proportion). Which of the 4 parts of the plan do you feel you work on the most? Which do you need to practice more? What are the next right steps to follow through with implementing this plan in your life?
7. In what ways does money give the illusion of meeting needs and desires that only God can? How can we be tempted to think this way? Share an instance where this illusion was revealed as false in your life.
8. Consider the 6 diagnostic questions from the end of the sermon: (Am I restless without it? Am I enraged when I lose it? Am I anxious when it shrinks? Am I sacrificing what matters most to gain it? Am I consumed by it? Am I resistant to release it to eternity? Which question challenges you most, and why?
9. The sermon referenced Oscar Schindler, who wept not over what he gave to save lives, but over what he kept. If you looked back at the end of your life, what would you wish you had used as "a mighty engine for good" instead of keeping for yourself? What one specific way could you start using your money this week to invest in souls and eternity?