

Connect Group Discussion Guide

SERMON DATE	SERMON SERIES	SERMON TITLE
8/22/2021	Five Vital Choices	Live like an Investor
Message on YouTube	Click on the link below and then click on the link that pops up below it to get to the message. Or, copy and paste the link below https://youtu.be/FPDO3DWJ9k8	

MESSAGE ABSTRACT:

Last week in our sermon series on Five Vital Choices, we examined the Bible's instruction to "Be very careful how you live" (Ephesians 5:15). And we looked at the first of five vital choices we can make—to live like an explorer, always believing that God has a purpose and promise for our lives. This means to live, not just to survive the day, but to be seeking what God might want to reveal to us as His children.

The second vital choice is to live like an INVESTOR, rather than being a HOARDER. An investor seeks to spend their time, talent, and treasure where it will create a greater payoff, benefiting others. A hoarder seeks only to use their time, talent, and treasure to make their lives more comfortable.

We examined the life of Zacchaeus and the choice he made, knowing that doing so was trading up to something even better. And it's in his very house, after Zacchaeus made the choice to live like an investor, that Jesus told the parable of the ten minas.

Together, they teach us three important lessons about being an investor:

1. **An investor knows a good deal when they see it.** What would prompt Zacchaeus to do the unheard of at that time--to give away half of his possessions to the poor? Simple this. He saw something of much greater reward: Jesus.
2. **An investor does not fear.** Risk nothing, gain nothing. No investor makes gain being worried about loss. In fact, if they are truly an investor, yet don't invest because of fear, they're failing at their job. Anyone who's trust they manage would fire them as incompetent. The point of Jesus' parable was not about the amount of return of the investment, the reward was the same regardless. The point of the parable was to *invest*.

3. **An investor plays offense.** This is proof of not living in fear. Investors take the action to find the best ways to steward the resources they have. They're not opportunistic, waiting for something to come to them, but actively seeking a way to make a difference.

We have been given a trust--and must prove faithful to it (1 Corinthians 4:2). The rewards are even better--far better--than we can imagine (Ephesians 3:20).

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. In what way did God speak to you in the message this past Sunday?
2. Discuss: How does fear affect fruitfulness?
3. When was the last time you had a deep conversation with someone who inspired you to discover and live out your purpose? How did that affect you? Were you drawn in or fearful about the possibilities?
4. Is there someone you know that might need some encouragement from you to become a better investor?
5. Being as honest as possible, where would you put yourself on the continuum between being an investor or hoarder? What things could you do to move yourself one step closer to being an investor, seeking ways to use your time, talents, and treasure for others even more?
6. (BONUS IF GROUP IS VULNERABLE): How would you answer the Thomas Merton questions: *What am I here for?* and *What's keeping me from that?*