

Small Group Guide



Icebreaker Question

What's one thing you remember being taught about money as a child? How has that shaped your relationship with money today?

Key Takeaways

1. **Christians are called to be counter-cultural** - We practice a way of living that resists the world's pull toward greed and accumulation.
2. **Jesus warns us about greed because He loves us** - Life does not consist in the abundance of possessions; greed destroys abundant life.
3. **There are many types of greed** - Accumulation, control, security, impressing others, hard-heartedness, and pride.
4. **Two different financial ordering systems:**
 - **Cultural way:** Spending → Saving → Giving (whatever's left)
 - **Kingdom way:** Giving → Saving → Spending (what remains)
5. **Seeking first God's kingdom** means trusting that our Heavenly Father knows our needs and will provide.

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Message

1. Jeff mentioned that Christians should "stick out like aliens or immigrants." What does this look like practically in our culture today? Where do you find this most challenging?
2. Read Luke 12:15 together. Why do you think Jesus said "watch out" and "be on your guard"? What does this tell us about the power of greed?
3. The sermon listed several types of greed (accumulation, control, security, impressing others, hard-heartedness, pride). Which type do you find most prevalent in our culture? Which one do you personally struggle with most?

Personal Reflection

4. Think about your current financial priorities. Which ordering system (cultural or kingdom) most accurately describes how you currently handle money? Be honest with yourself and the group.
5. Jeff shared about teaching his daughters to divide their allowance into giving, saving, and spending boxes. What messages about money—spoken or unspoken—did you receive growing up? How have those messages affected you?
6. Read Matthew 6:31-33. What does it practically look like to "seek first His kingdom" with your finances? What fears or doubts arise when you consider putting God first financially?

Going Deeper

7. The sermon states that "greed is the water we swim in" and "fuels the American economy." How does this cultural current make kingdom living difficult? What specific cultural messages about money do you need to resist?
8. Tim Keller's quote contrasts the early church with pagan society: pagans were "stingy with money and promiscuous with their bodies," while Christians were the opposite. Why is generosity with money so counter-cultural, even among Christians today?
9. Jeff said, "When you have a conversation with God...you bring God glory. You make his kingdom visible." How does generous giving make God's kingdom visible to others?

Application and Action

10. If you've "drifted" in your financial priorities, what would be one practical "first step" you could take this week to begin moving in a different direction?
11. Jeff encouraged those who are uncomfortable to be honest with God. What honest conversation do you need to have with God about money, generosity, and trust?