

# Group Life.

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER



## ICEBREAKER (10 MINUTES)

Do you carry cash in your wallet or purse, or do you use credit cards for regular daily expenses? In other words, are you a cash or credit card person? Why?

OR

Do you know someone who is a trustworthy steward of what God has given them? What characteristics makes you consider them trustworthy (or untrustworthy)?

## INTRODUCTION (5-10 MINUTES)

**Read Matthew 25:14-30.** Share what you found most interesting about this Bible story or about David's message.

Have you ever failed to give appropriate attention to your money and seen that lead to a negative consequence?

**Host Guidance:** It could be something like allowing our investments to decline in value without us knowing it or making any adjustments. Perhaps we have had a subscription roll over to a new year when we don't use it anymore or intended for it to be cancelled. We might sign up for credit card debt and not realize the exorbitant interest rate we're being charged. APP's which help us track down and cancel unwanted subscriptions are very popular now because we lose track of how we are spending our money.

Was there a moment in the past week when you were able to slay the "Monster of More" through contentment? Share the details with your small group.

## INTO THE WORD (20 MINUTES)

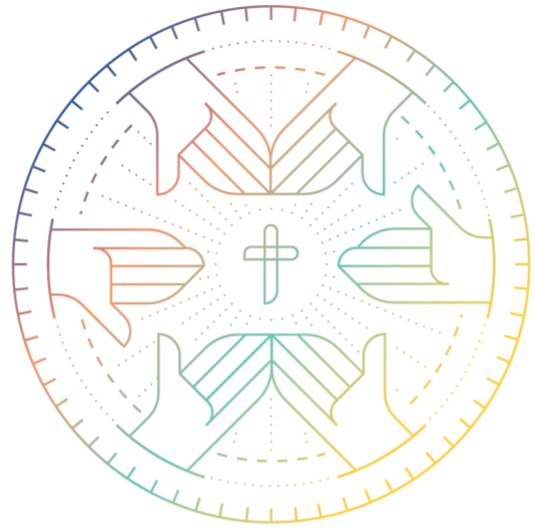
**Read Proverbs 21:5.** Describe how diligence can lead to abundance? What kinds of diligence? How does haste lead to poverty?

**Host Guidance:** a person who is diligent about their money knows exactly how much they make, understands their debts, and the cost of debt. They know what they have in savings and have

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already decided how they will honor the Lord with their income. That kind of diligence will lead to an abundance and to success. A person who lives and acts in haste is unable to apply the same level of diligence to their finances. They will be scattered or haphazard in the way they approach their money and the choices and uses of their money.

**Read 1 Timothy 6:6-10.** What do you find most significant in the passage we just read? In what ways have you seen people fall into temptation and sin because of an unhealthy affection for money?

What is the biggest temptation you face that draws you into a "love for money"?

**Host Guidance:** people allow themselves to be deceived by influencers and marketers who simply want to profit from their willingness to purchase what they either do not need, or cannot afford. Cars, technology, jewelry, sporting goods and household goods are marketed as essential. The subtle communication is everyone must have these things in order to be validated as a person.

**Read Luke 12:15.** Describe what it means to "be on your guard" against love for money or coveting possessions?

**Host Guidance:** we can be on guard against the love of money by constantly asking ourself whether things are necessary, or simply desirable. There are many things we have to have in our modern society in order to live in a reasonable way. But there are also many, many things that are not essential and are "wants" rather than "needs". Being able to step away from the noise of our culture and discern how God wants us to live with relation to possessions will enable us to stay on guard.

## APPLICATION (20 MINUTES)

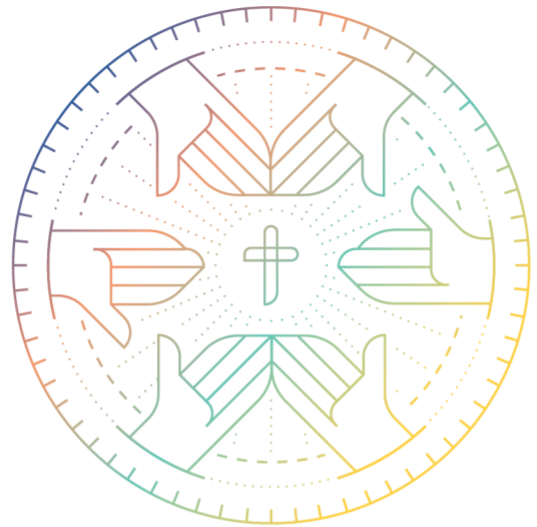
How can your small group help you to resist the love of money?

How difficult is it to separate your worth from your wealth? What does society say that makes such separation more difficult?

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How do you respond to the statistic David shared that the average Christian gives only 1.7% of their income to church or charity? Does that surprise you? Where are you in relation to a percentage of income given to honor the Lord? Are you satisfied with that level of stewardship?

## PRAYER (10 MINUTES)

*Our Savior and Lord Jesus, we want to be trustworthy stewards of the resources with which you have blessed us. Give us wisdom and courage to separate our needs from our wants and to be self-controlled and wise in every financial decision. May our relationship with money be one of gratitude and responsibility, not self-worth or contempt. Help us to see everything we have as a gift from your hand and to use it in ways that bring you honor. Amen.*