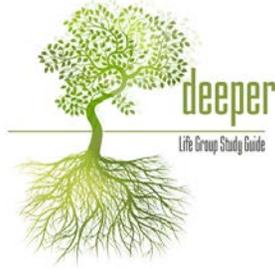


Deeper The Chase: Financial Contentment



Welcome (You to Me, Me to You)

How would you describe your parent's attitude or habits regarding money growing up? Generous? Stressed? Frugal? Cheap? Thoughtful? Careless? Wise?

Worship (Us to God)

Have someone read Galatians 5:1 and John 8:36. We know from these verses that Christ died to give us pure and righteous freedom in our lives: freedom from sin, from our selfish desires and tendencies, and everything that enslaves us to this world. Spend some time praying simple prayers of gratitude to God for the gift of His love and the freedom afforded to us only because of Christ.

Word (God to Us)

1. 1 Timothy 6:6 -10 is full of God's wisdom regarding contentment. Read it and share what stands out to you?

2. How and why is true contentment with our finances countercultural?

3. Ecclesiastes 5:10 exposes the root problem with the love of money. According to the verse, how does the love of money breed discontent in our lives?

4. What kinds of things (people, websites, magazines, shows, etc....) foster an attitude of discontent in your life?

In contrast, how does the fruit of God's Spirit in our lives foster an attitude of contentment? (Read Galatians 5:22 -23.)

5. Read Matthew 6:19 – 21. According to this passage, how are our spending habits a direct indication of our heart condition? What do your bank statements and spending habits reveal about your treasure?

6. Read Matthew 6:25 – 34. How does God's character: His love for you, His thoughtful attention to detail, and His ability to provide as found in this passage impact your thoughts and beliefs on generating income or wealth?

Keeping it real: Have you found yourself worrying, fretting, or stressing about money these days? (If so, you're in good company.) How does this passage encourage you?

7. Go back to Matthew 6:33. Many of us have known or heard this passage before but if it's true, how might you shift the priorities of your life in big or small ways this year?

How is generosity in our finances a key to true financial contentment?

8. Psalm 24:1 says, *The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.* Knowing that everything we own or possess belongs to God, how might releasing "our" stuff to God relieve some tension in our lives and free us up to better love and serve the people around us? (Try to be specific when answering.)

Response (Us to the World)

Talking about money can sometimes be difficult. Looking back at what you shared in questions 7 and 8, get alone with one other person in the group to pray. Confess areas of sin or shortcoming or things you are encouraged to do differently or better in 2016. Pray together that we would each experience the awesome freedom Christ died to give us and that God would make us a church of totally free, truly content, and radically generous people. Pray for God's Spirit to do a new thing in our hearts and in our church body; that we would be known for His glory as a people totally countercultural in our living and our giving. Let's pray!