



Northland Christian Church Group Discussion Guide For the Week of August 8, 2021

Use the questions below as a springboard for discussion. You do not have to answer every question. These are intended to help spark discussion. Refer to as needed. Ultimately we want God's answers, not man's opinions. Always land where God lands. (ex: Where do we see that in the Bible?) Give grace. Give time for growth. Don't force it.

Connect

- If you had the resources to bless someone today, what would you do?
- Why is it so hard to eat a single potato chip (or m&m)? What does that teach us (if anything) about money, spending, or saving?

Engage the Bible - Read and Review Surprises, Takeaways, and Observations from:

Luke 16:1-9, Proverbs 27:24

The Context - More than Money

Jesus had a lot to say about money. Believe it or not he wasn't afraid to talk about this subject. Jesus talked more about money than heaven. More than he talked about marriage or politics. Why?

Jesus knew this would be the most powerful resource in the world, it could be used for good or be a total waste. In fact He knew that the most powerful physical resource in the world could hold power over you. It's more than money, it's a heart issue, it's a trust issue, it's a stewardship issue, & it gives us a window into our hearts.

Today, we are going to look directly at a shocking story Jesus told that helps us see that money isn't everything. It's only a means to an end. Though this story is very confusing in a lot of ways - remember, it's a parable. A story meant to inform, instruct, and inspire people to see how life & the Kingdom of God really work. It's meant to spur us to examine, engage, & re-think what we think we know. In terms of money, here are some of the takeaways we can grab from this challenging parable. There's a heavenly purpose beyond the dollars & cents. It's more than just money.

- **You can leverage your resources or you can waste your resources on things that won't last.**
- **It's more than money, it's about the Kingdom of God.**
- **The impact of your generosity can last a lifetime or it can last for eternity.**
- **Your resources can have an eternal impact.**
- **We are the managers and God is the owner.**

Discuss & Apply

1. What do you think most people believe is the primary purpose of money?
2. What is your earliest memory of money? Was it saving to buy something? Getting a gift? Working for an allowance? Not having enough for your family to make ends meet? How do you think your upbringing has influenced your current attitude toward money?
3. In a general sense, how comfortable are you with having discussions around the subject of money? Why?
4. How has God utilized money as a tool in your life? Where do you see God's blessings most in your life?
5. READ **Psalm 24:1** If the money we have is really God's money, what implications does this have for the way you view & utilize your money?
6. What is one thing that God is asking you to step out in faith & alter in how you steward money & resources? How can we help?

End your group time in prayer.

Have everyone spend a few minutes on their own thanking God for all He has blessed them with: time, talent, money, resources, family, relationships, church, and so on. Then have one or two people pray over the whole group.