



Group Guide: Week 3

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

There are four crucial components for a group to maintain its health: Word, prayer, relationships, and reaching out. In this guide, you will study Matthew 6:19-24 in three steps: observation, interpretation, and application. As the group leader, you are free to use any part of this guide that can assist you in achieving this goal.

CONNECT *BREAK THE ICE AND GET PEOPLE TALKING*

- Everybody has something they find really easy to spend money on. What's yours?
- From when you were younger to now, what's one major change you've seen in the way you think about money?

INTRODUCTION

Jesus talked about money... a lot. A bunch of his parables have to do with wealth, and he spends a good portion of the Sermon on the Mount talking about wealth and generosity. This means that in order to seek God's kingdom (which is what Jesus told us to do "first" in Matthew 6:33), we need to take his words about wealth to heart.

OBSERVATIONS & INTERPRETATION

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 6:19-24

- Discuss: Jesus talks about two places to "lay up" treasure—on earth or in heaven. What reasons does he give for not laying up treasure on earth? What does laying up treasure in heaven look like practically?
- Discuss: Jesus makes a connection between our heart and money, as well as between our eyes and money. What we occupy our eyes with influences where we lay up our treasure. Describe some different "light" and "dark" focuses you can think of.

APPLICATION *WHAT DO WE DO NEXT?*

- Verse 24 is the kicker. If we lay up treasure in the wrong place, that treasure will become our master. It will control us, determine our decisions, and hold sway over our actions. In what areas of your life have you experienced money trying to control you?
- Jesus's antidote to the problem is clear. Our hearts, our eyes, and our hands are to be his. Given your answer to the question above, how does the gospel help you in that challenging area?
- Are there changes you sense God calling you to make with your heart (affections), eyes (focus), or hands (service) in order to seek first his kingdom? What are they?

PRAYER

Pray for the revelation of the servanthood of Christ.

Pray for an impact on our hearts, eyes, and hands that helps us seek first God's kingdom.