



Group Guide: Week 4

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 1 Timothy 6:3-19 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

- Describe two things from the past week that brought you joy.
- What's the most "strapped for cash" you've ever been?
- Discipleship check-in:
 - Have you prayed and read your Bible consistently the past week?
 - Who is someone you're praying to share Jesus with this week, and what's one way you can love them well?

INTRODUCTION

Today we're finishing up our look at Moneology by exploring a section from Paul's first letter to Timothy. Timothy ministered in Ephesus, a large, cosmopolitan city. Like any large, cosmopolitan city, building wealth was a big reason people lived there. Paul wanted Timothy to disciple people well, and that meant equipping him to shape their thinking and practice around wealth. As we'll see from his words, there is much at stake. Wrong thinking around wealth spells disaster, but right thinking can make for a rich life in the fullest sense of the word.

OBSERVATIONS & INTERPRETATION

SCRIPTURE: 1 Timothy 6:3-10

- Discuss: Paul says something shocking in verse 8: "...if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content." Describe what you think Paul means here by "content." Is this even realistic? Why or why not?
- Discuss: Paul uses words like "desire," "love," and "craving" to describe what's going on in the hearts of people who want to get rich. Where does Paul say feeling this way about money leads to?

READ: 1 Timothy 6:11-19

- Discuss: Practically speaking, what do you think it looks like to pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness?
- Discuss: Paul breaks into a doxology of praise in verse 14-16. What stands out to you about what he says regarding Jesus?

APPLICATION *WHAT DO WE DO NEXT?*

- Based on what Paul tells Timothy, our contentment level can be a barometer of sorts. It can tell us what our heart is desiring. How would you describe your contentment level in life right now?
- In what ways is God calling you to pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness?
- How does Jesus's future arrival empower you to be content and generous?

PRAYER

Read verses 14-16 again and spend time praising Jesus.

Pray for contentment and a love for God rather than a desire to get rich.