

Questions for family/small group discussions:

How do we live a generous life? We need to understand three truths:

1. Money puts a _____ on you.

Why is stinginess and spending on self so evil?

a. Your money doesn't really _____ to _____.

What do 1 Chronicles 29:11-14 and James 1:17 say about what we have? How does this change things for us? Why do you think God provided you with your particular abilities, opportunities, and circumstances?

How much do you think about God employing you as his steward or manager of all that he gives to you? And how much do you think about the resources given to you as being intended for the shalom and flourishing of the greater community? How does that change things for you?

b. Greed or materialism makes you _____ to its power over you.

Materialism = excess concern for, worry about, love of, need for,
_____ and _____.

What does Jesus' teaching in Luke 12:15 say about the particular danger and power of greed? How does it differ from other sins?

What are some cultural factors/influences that keep us from seeing our own struggle with greed and materialism? If we can't trust ourselves to see the spell that money has over us, what can you do to help you see it?

How have you viewed the idea of tithe? What is the better way of viewing the tithe?

2. How does money put a _____ on us?

- a. In Malachi 3:10, the storehouse was the treasury that supported the worship and salvation system of its deity. And if you don't bring your tithes to God's treasury, you are using your wealth for another treasury. What are the alternative treasuries that you more easily spend money on or invest in?

- b. If your spending or saving reveals what you really worship, what do you really worship?

- c. Do you tend to look for money more to provide you with security, significance or love/acceptance? What does that look like for you?

3. How do we _____ the spell of money?

- a. What does Matt. 6:21 say about the importance of what you treasure the most? How can you increasingly make the shift to make Jesus your treasure? What do you need to soak in to your heart about who Jesus is and what he has done to make him your treasure? What does 2 Cor. 8:7b-9 say about the relationship of your giving and Jesus' giving?

- b. If you were able to look under the hood and into your heart, what is the likely source of your breakdown if you are stingy and not radically generous? What steps can you take this week to become generous?

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