



Small Group Study Guide



October 11, 2020
"Misplaced Faith"

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, give us the courage to live your way. Give us the vision to see beyond our worldly lives and to stay clearly focused on your heavenly kingdom. Advertisements and enticements to a very different kind of life bombard us every day. So would you open the eyes of our heart so that we could see the world a little differently? And would you teach us how to live a life of generosity so that we could be rich toward you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES:

Luke 12:16-21 (NIV)

¹⁶ And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. ¹⁷ He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.'

¹⁸ "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. ¹⁹ And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.'"

²⁰ "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'

²¹ "This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God."

INTRODUCTION

We're all tempted to place our faith in money. We're tempted to believe that if we make enough, we'll be able to control our circumstances and create a better life for ourselves. The problem with that view is that the more we place our faith in money, the more it controls us. Scripture challenges us to look at our money differently because our lives are better when we place our trust in the One who richly provides. But how do we make that happen?

Generous people do not assume everything they have is theirs to consume. They recognize that it all belongs to a loving God who can be trusted to care for them. We can break the insanity by behaving like and thinking like a giver, not a consumer.

QUESTIONS

- 1) What are some reasons that we spend money we don't have?
- 2) During the message, Pastor Eric said, "More money does not generate more self-control, discipline, or contentment." Respond to that statement. How does it challenge your assumptions and behavior when it comes to your money?
- 3) How do you tell the difference between planning financially for the future in a healthy way and hoarding money for your security and consumption? Is there such a thing as being too generous?
- 4) Would you consider yourself a "3S Giver"—someone who gives spontaneously, sporadically, and sparingly? Do you agree that kind of giving gets in the way of generosity? Why or why not?
- 5) Are you a planner or do you tend to fly by the seat of your pants? How has that influenced the way you manage your finances?
- 6) Most financial worry is the result of wanting what we can't get, not needing what we don't have. Do you agree or disagree with that statement?

FINAL APPLICATION

What is one thing you can do this week to change your mindset regarding your financial assets to think more like a manager instead of an owner?