



Small Group Study Guide

THE WALK FIVE ESSENTIAL PRACTICES OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

March 14, 2021
“Give: Where Your
Treasure Is”

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for your Holy Spirit that nudges us toward self-control. We know that you want to see more of the fruit of the Spirit in us, but too many times we lack self-control and let our appetite control our money and possessions. Lord, we really want to get this right. So would you help us to seek first your kingdom. So give us eyes to see and ears to hear. We pray this in the matchless and powerful name of Jesus. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES:

Matthew 6:19-21, 24, 33 (NIV)

¹⁹ “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

²⁴ “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Galatians 5:16-17, 22-23 (NIV)

¹⁶ So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want.

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

INTRODUCTION

Are you mastering your money or being mastered by it? Maybe it's time to adjust your approach. Instead of striving to have enough money to satisfy a me-first appetite, Jesus encouraged his listeners to have an others-first approach.

Having a me-first mentality about money will always be a temptation. When we have an others-first approach with our money, we practice self-control and self-denial. If we want to put others first with our money, we need a premeditated, calculated and designated plan. When we do that, we will be living in sync with our heavenly Father, who wants us to not be mastered by our money.

QUESTIONS

- 1) What would you do if you received an extra paycheck this month?
- 2) Read Galatians 5:16-17 on page 1. In his letter to the Christians in the region of Galatia, Paul gives a number of instructions on how to find freedom in life by following Christ. A key one is to "walk by the Spirit," where we are nudged by God through our consciences. When it comes to money, how is what the flesh desires in contrast to what walking by the Spirit looks like? At the end of verse 17, Paul likens "acts of the flesh" to doing "whatever you want." What are some consequences of doing "whatever we want" with our money?
- 3) Read Galatians 5:22-23. How can our money be used to demonstrate the fruit of the spirit? What do the acts of the Spirit listed have in common?
- 4) Read Matthew 6:24 on page 1. As a way to consider the principle Matthew introduces in v.24, look at the list below. If a "1" is being mastered by your money and a "10" is mastering your money, how would you rate yourself? Why?
 - a) Mastered by your money – Live, Save, Give.
 - b) Mastering your money – Give, Save, Live.
- 5) Give some words that describe what you want your relationship with God to look like. How can putting God and others first in the area of your money help you take a step toward that kind of relationship?

FINAL APPLICATION

This week develop a giving plan to further the Kingdom of God (premeditated). Determine the % of your income to give (calculated). Then decide where you are going to give (designated).