

# ***INVESTING FOR LIFE***

## **SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE**

Week 1 *October 30, 2022*  
“Financial Happiness”



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### **OPENING PRAYER**

Heavenly Father, we recognize that we are blessed to be a blessing. And we know that all the good gifts in our life come from you. Lord, we confess that we get so caught up in acquiring more and we think that we will finally be happy if we just have a little more. Forgive us for our foolishness and that thinking our life does exist in the abundance of our possessions. Lord help us, so that our finances might be a reflection of our values and that we might put you first in our lives. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

### **SCRIPTURE PASSAGES**

#### **Matthew 6:19-24 (NIV)**

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

*<sup>22</sup> “The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. <sup>23</sup> But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!*

*<sup>24</sup> “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.*

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## INTRODUCTION

What does it mean to invest in the things that have real meaning and purpose? How can we as Christians participate in the work of God to bring life and love to the people around us?

Many people don't like when the church talks about money and finance. However, how we handle our money can impact our daily lives as well as our spiritual health. When you practice good sound financial management rooted and grounded in what the scripture teaches us, we find life is better and we find health and joy.

## QUESTIONS

1. What commercial and peer pressures encourage you to spend “as if there is no tomorrow”? Who (if anyone) has influenced you to make your financial choices with a longer view in mind, rather than simply immediate gratification?
2. Have you ever worked steadily toward a goal, and felt the inner satisfaction when your disciplined pursuit paid off? On the other hand, have you ever had a financial windfall, and then regretted impulsively “blowing it”?
3. Can you identify concerns or interests that have become less prominent in your life when you've made God your top priority?
4. Read Matthew 6:19-24 on page 1. Conduct a simple life audit. Review your calendar and your checkbook. Based on the time, energy and resources reflected in those two sources, what “master(s)” would you say you are serving? Can you see your loyalties shifting as you choose to invest in heavenly treasure? What kinds of changes could you make to give you greater freedom to fully serve God as Lord of your life?
5. What relationships, activities or values would you never give up, never sacrifice just to be able to pursue more money?

## FINAL APPLICATION

What is one of the ‘7 tips to financial happiness,’ that you need to focus on in order to improve your financial health?