

Sermon Discussion Curriculum – Week 1 Our Treasure – May 16, 2021

Allow God to speak to you through his written Word. The goal of this time is to have quality connection and time together. Choose questions from Know, Grow and Show that will best help your group discuss the passage and take their next steps of faith. Don't feel like you have to use all of the questions. Feel free to add your own too! We are praying for you as you lead your D-Group this week!

KNOW:

- You've probably heard the statement, "It's more blessed to give than receive." Have you personally experienced that truth? Share an example.
- When it comes to your resources, one Christian philanthropist said, "You can't take it with you, but you can send it ahead." How is that possible?
- Who in your life is someone that you would consider a generous person? What traits or values do you notice as they serve others? How would you like to grow in being generous to others?
- Share a time when you were in need and God sent aid to you, either through an individual or through the church.
- Has your view on giving vs. receiving changed over the years? Explain.
- Share an example of someone you have seen give in a self-sacrificial kind of way. How did their actions affect you?



GROW:

- Spend a few minutes reading through 2 Corinthians 8:1-8. What stands out to you in this passage? Is there anything that surprises you?
- The Macedonian churches are set as an example of how Christians should approach generosity. Using verses 1-5, make a list of how Paul describes the Macedonian churches' circumstances at this time. What from your list was the most important factor for their generosity?
- Looking at verses 6-7, why is it important to grow as a complete disciple, not neglecting any one aspect?
- Paul shows that giving of our time and resources is an "act of grace". What do you see from this passage that shows our giving should be motivated by the grace of God?
- The goal of our generosity is to glorify God, not to supply a need. Based on this passage, why is it important for you, as an individual Christian and the church, to be generous to give God glory?
- God designed our "grace giving" so that it would bless both others and us. In fact, Jesus commands us in Mathew 6:19-21 to "lay up treasures in heaven"! Who does he say this future wealth will benefit? How does he say it's accumulation will affect our passion for Christ and His kingdom?



SHOW:

- Living in America in 2021 means we are in the top 10% of the richest people who have ever lived. Why do you think God has showered you with so many resources (education, wealth, time)?
- Read 2 Cor. 9:10-11 and then finish this sentence, "God gives us more than we need so.....".
- Millard Fuller, founder of Habitat for Humanity, wrote a purpose statement for his life, "I see my life as a gift and a responsibility. My responsibility is to use what God has given me to meet his people's needs." Write out a purpose statement for your life and share it with the group.
- Think about how you and your family practice generosity. What typically motivates your giving? Some possible answers may be, guilt, duty, expectations of God's blessing, response to circumstances, thankfulness, or love. Feel free to answer in your own words.
- Consider someone in your life today who would benefit from your generosity. How can you demonstrate generosity to that person today or this week?
- Has giving been a way of praising and worshiping God for you personally? Why or why not? If so, how has it brought you closer to God?

Sermon Discussion Curriculum – Week 2 Our Time – May 23, 2021

Allow God to speak to you through his written Word. The goal of this time is to have quality connection and time together. Choose questions from Know, Grow and Show that will best help your group discuss the passage and take their next steps of faith. Don't feel like you have to use all of the questions. Feel free to add your own too! We are praying for you as you lead your D-Group this week!



KNOW:

- What's the biggest gift you've ever given anyone? Who was it given to? Why did you choose that gift? What was their response? How did you feel about it?
- Do you consider yourself to be rich? Check out this website: <http://bit.ly/AmIRich>. Spoiler alert--you're likely rich, from a global perspective. Does this change the way you see your wealth, or perceived lack thereof?
- There are three types of Monopoly game players: the Win-At-All-Costs player, the This-Game-Is-Stupid player, and the I'll-Play-But-I-Know-I-Won't-Win player. Which game player are you? Is there another Monopoly game player persona that fits you? What strategies do you use to end up with the most money at the end?
- Do you know people (or are you a person) who checks the stock market daily? What do you think they are hoping to see?
- TV shows and films are littered with characters who are rich (Billions, The Dark Knight, Richie Rich, etc.). Name a few other shows or movies that portray extremely rich characters. How does the presence of such riches impact the characters portrayed? Would you describe any as “haughty”?



GROW:

- Read the passages of 1 Timothy 6:17-19 and Mark 10:45. How do these passages relate to each other? What other passages in Scripture would you also link to these two?
- We often associate “rich” as a status related to money, but verse 17 mentioned how God richly provides us with everything to enjoy. What does this show us about the character of God?
- Paul tells us that God richly provides us with everything to enjoy. This implies that God does not give wealth to promote our pride, but rather that we might use and enjoy what he's given us in his will. At the same time, he says there is an "uncertainty" around earthly riches. What does it look like to live obediently to Christ given these two realities?
- What comes to mind when you read the phrase “rich in good works”? Why do you think Paul warns against trusting and putting hope in the uncertainty of riches? Do we see this in our culture or in our lives? If so, how can we combat it?
- Mark 10:45 can seem a bit paradoxical. The King came to serve. What do you learn about God from this? Is this a concept that is easy or hard for you to believe?
- Throughout Mark 10, we see Jesus being tested with questions, welcoming children when others are pushing them away, addressing issues of the heart with the rich young man and responding to two disciples request for position. This leads us to verse 45 where Jesus says he came to serve, not be served. Who is Jesus serving and how do you see evidence of it?



SHOW:

- The way Jesus lived was different and people noticed. Some questioned, some followed, some ridiculed. As Christ followers, we are called to follow his example. In a culture that has a different view on wealth and riches, what might we face when we apply these principles?
- As we've had this conversation, have you had any ideas about how you could use the material blessings God has given you to serve his kingdom by serving others? Any examples you have can serve as an encouragement to others.
- It's easy sometimes to excuse ourselves for why we don't actively serve others (we're busy, we have different gifts and talents, we don't know where to start). What is one tangible way, even if it's out of your comfort zone or not something that thrills you, that you can serve others around you who may never be able to return the favor?
- What does your generosity say about your relationship with God? Pause and write down a few thoughts that come to mind. What does your lack of generosity say about your relationship with God? Continue writing your thoughts.
- When it comes to your time, talent, and treasure, ask yourself... What am I more generous with and what am I less generous with?

Sermon Discussion Curriculum – Week 3 Our Talent – May 30, 2021

Allow God to speak to you through his written Word. The goal of this time is to have quality connection and time together. Choose questions from Know, Grow and Show that will best help your group discuss the passage and take their next steps of faith. Don't feel like you have to use all of the questions. Feel free to add your own too! We are praying for you as you lead your D-Group this week!

KNOW:

- Has anybody in your D-Group tried out for American Idol or America's Got Talent? Do you know anybody else that has? Share your experience. What do shows like these say about how talent is viewed in our culture?
- How has your D-Group served together over the last year? Have you served with a local partner? Have you adopted a global partner? Share some of the memories from this past year together.
- Think about how God has specifically gifted you. What are some of your strengths and how do you use them for the kingdom of God?
- Share about a season in your life where you had to depend on others for help. Has there been a time when people from church came around you to meet your needs and take care of you?
- Who is your favorite musician, band, or singer? Why do you enjoy them so much? In what ways do they use their time and talent to bless others?



GROW:

- As you consider the topic of Talent this week, read the following passages out loud: 1 Peter 4:10-11 and Romans 12: 3-8. What do you notice about these two passages? Is there anything that stands out to you?
- Without humility, we either serve out of insecurity (pleasing, needing, manipulating) or arrogance (proving, using, controlling). When your perspective about serving is off, which way do you lean? Explain.
- Consider the passage from John 13 where Jesus washes the feet of his disciples. Read it out loud and consider it in regard to our discussions on time, treasure, and talent. What do you notice about Jesus in this situation?
- Put yourself in the place of the disciples. How would you have responded to Jesus if he knelt to wash your feet?
- When we truly serve, we have to give up something (time, resources, prejudices, pride, etc.). What is most difficult for you to give up in order to serve others?



SHOW:

- Where can you use your giftings to serve the Lord in ways that you aren't right now? At home? At church? In the community?
- Is there a ministry area at church or a local mission partner that your group could get involved in? Is there a common ministry that we all feel we could find ways to serve?
- Dr. Henry Cloud says, "The space where someone's need and your gifts meet is the space for service, an opportunity, and perhaps a calling." What can you do to serve others? Think about your abilities, skills, talents, resources, experiences, and temperament. Be as specific as possible.
- Are there any areas at the church that you need to step into and serve? You may not feel "gifted" to serve with the kids, but maybe this is an opportunity to lay your own desires aside and help where it is needed. Are there any other areas that you may be able to step into like this?
- Take the spiritual gifting test and learn more about your own giftings: www.fellowshipar.com/serve. After you do this, consider how you might be able to use these giftings at the church.