

Bringing truth to LIFE-**Wisdom for your life this week.**

Most of our financial problems begin when we look to the world for advice. Imagine what could happen if we turned to God and Listened to His timeless wisdom regarding our money!

We started this study with a focus on money, dollars, and debt. But we ended this lesson with our focus turned toward the currency of LOVE. Let's look at the implications of this study for our daily life.

- a. How well have you reigned in the "love/desire for money?"

What does your current situation reveal? Are there signs of the "harmful desires", "ruin and destruction" that accompany the longing to be rich?

Are confident that you have put God in the first place in your life? How can your group help you reorder your priority, so you can love and serve God more than money!

- b. The love of money leads to debt that places you in bondage. Then debt chokes generosity. How will you find freedom from one of your debts/loans/installments?

- c. Share with your group how you will be generous with "agape" love this week. Invite them to ask you about it next week.

Pray for Each Other "Lord, help us break free from the love of money. We give you first place of importance in our life. Increase our heart's capacity to love others generously and sacrificially."

**Life Group Sermon Study**

Week of 11/04/18



Big Idea: If our guide for our view of money is from the world... our finances will get out of control so fast ... especially heading into the Christmas season. The good news is we can learn how to get out of financial bondage. Unleashed will help us avoid common financial pitfalls, experience financial freedom, and embrace a life of joyful generosity.

UPSIDE DOWN! Living Generously**Week #1****Unveiled: A Godly Perspective on Money!**

Selected Scriptures

Matthew 6:24 ²⁴ "No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money."

1 Timothy 6:9-10 ⁹ "But People who long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows."

Proverbs 22:7 & 9 ⁷ "Just as the rich rule the poor, so the borrower is servant to the lender. ⁹ Blessed are those who are generous, because they feed the poor."

Romans 13:8 ⁸ "Owe nothing to anyone – except for your obligation to love one another. If you love your neighbor, you will fulfill the requirements of God's law."

Capture our Attention-

- a. Tell others about your first job. What did you do? How much did you earn each week? What did you do with the money?

- b. Share your Take-A-Way from last Sunday's sermon. What insight did God use to capture your attention? How are you trying to put that insight into practice in your daily life?

Enlighten our Mind- Study the Word of God.

1. Jesus makes it very clear in Matthew 6:24. You will need to choose who becomes King of your life. What does it mean to be devoted/love your first priority and despise/hate your second priority? Why are God and money jealously demanding first place?

How have you seen the evidence of this tension in your life?

2. Review 1 Timothy 6:9-10, what are the consequences when our heart starts to love and be devoted to the pursuit of more money? How can a devotion to money distance us from our spiritual faith?

When have you noticed the ruin and sorrow of the "love of money?"

3. The book of Proverbs is a treasure chest of practical and discerning wisdom. What do you learn about debt and borrowing from Proverbs 22:7? In what way does a borrower become a "servant"?

Rather than living in debt, what financial discipline does God bless in Proverbs 22:9? At what point does generosity become a challenge for you? What helps grow the discipline of generosity?

4. What does Paul mean when he points us to our "*Obligation (or debt) to love one another*"?

The word for "love" here describes a very specific style of love, "agape" (sounds like "a-gah-pay"). This love describes a willingness to make a personal sacrifice to provide something that another person needs. It's the kind of love that Jesus demonstrated to us when He died on the cross for sinful people like us. In what ways do we tend to be willing to give that kind of love for others?

Who is hard to love in this way?

5. Better that Bit-Coin! In what way is "love" like currency? In your life who has deposited authentic love into your life? How can you do the same to people who have wounded you?