



Wise ↓  
Courageous ↓  
Generous

*How the Gospel Changes the way we use our resources.*

*“When human beings give their heartfelt allegiance to and worship that which is not God, they progressively cease to reflect the image of God. One of the primary laws of human life is that you become like what you worship; what’s more, you reflect what you worship not only to the object itself but also outward to the world around. Those who worship money increasingly define themselves in terms of it and increasingly treat other people as creditors, debtors, partners, or customers rather than as human beings... These and many other forms of idolatry combine in a thousand ways, all of them damaging to the image-bearing quality of the people concerned and of those whose lives they touch.”*

–N.T. Wright

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*“The bread which you hold back belongs to the hungry; the coat, which you guard in your locked storage-chests, belongs to the naked; the footwear mouldering in your closet belongs to those without shoes. The silver that you keep hidden in a safe place belongs to the one in need. Thus, however many are those whom you could have provided for, so many are those whom you wrong.”*

–Saint Basil

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*“A wise person should have money in their head, but not in their heart.”*

–Jonathan Swift

Dear Redeemer Family,

What kind of church will we be? Will we be the kind of people who shrink from difficult topics that challenge us and make us uncomfortable? Will we nuance the hard teachings of our Lord away into oblivion? Or will we trust that our Heavenly Father loves us and therefore squarely face what He has to say to us in His word about money – trusting that there is deep joy and freedom to be found on the other side of obedience?

Consider this...

- 16 of the 38 parables of Jesus deal with money.
- 1 out of 10 verses in the New Testament addresses material resources.
- The entirety of scripture has approximately 500+ verses on prayer, 400+ verses on faith, and 2,000+ verses on money.

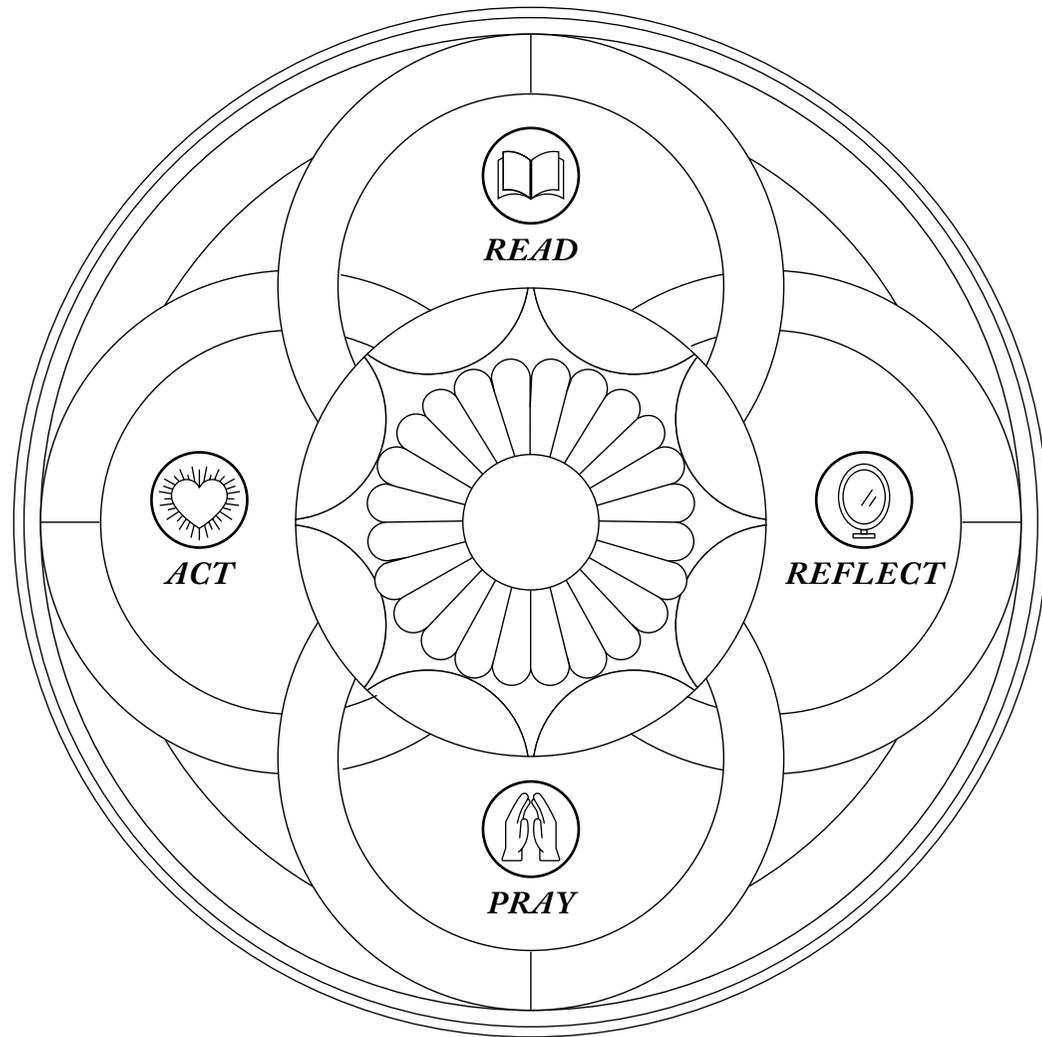
Everything that we have is a gift from God and He has made it clear in His word that He cares about the way we steward His resources. The good news of the Gospel is that our stewardship of money does not earn us God’s favor, but rather God’s favor to us in Jesus sets us free from the anxiety and tyranny of money so that we can live wisely, courageously, and generously.

My hope for our parish this month is that we will do three things:

- 1.** Take a good, honest look at what scripture has to say about money, without being afraid of what we will find there.
- 2.** Laugh at ourselves and all the ways we use money to shore up our insecurities.
- 3.** Re-center ourselves on Christ and how His Gospel sets us free to joyfully live as He intends us to live.

I fully realize that a sermon series on money is sure to stir up all sorts of feelings of offense, fear, anger, resentment, and hurt. I’m sure we’ve all experienced Christians and churches talking about money in unhealthy, manipulative ways in the past. Let’s all do our best to be compassionate to the past hurts in each other’s lives, while also opening ourselves to allow the Holy Spirit to work in our lives through His Word.

In the Father’s love,  
Dan



## HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This little guidebook is designed for individual, family, and small group use during the Fall 2018 season at Redeemer Anglican Church. It tracks with our sermon series on financial stewardship—helping us reflect, pray, and act on what we are learning about how to be wise, courageous, and generous with our resources.

**Week 1** From Foolishness to Wisdom    **Week 2** From Fear to Courage    **Week 3** From Selfishness to Generosity



**READ**

For each week, there is a primary text assigned (this is the same text on which Sunday's sermon is founded). There are also 6 supporting texts drawn from various parts of the Bible for supplemental reading the other six days of the week.



**REFLECT**

After reading from scripture, take a moment to reflect on what you have read. *Slow down.* Allow yourself to wonder about parts that surprised you or seemed mysterious. There are a handful of questions provided to stimulate reflection (and discussion with your Small Group).



**PRAY**

The time of prayer follows a simple liturgy: a call to prayer, a time of confession and forgiveness, a time of supplication (making requests to God), the Lord's Prayer, and a benediction. This liturgy can be prayed alone, with others in your household, and with your Small Group.



**ACT**

When we truly receive the good news of the Gospel, we are motivated to embrace new habits and extend the good news to others. The love of God to us in Jesus overflows within us and spills out to our neighbors. Each week there are suggested actions that help us receive, embody, and extend the Gospel.

## WEEK 1 | From Foolishness to Wisdom



### James 1:5–18

For further reading:

*M* – Matthew 6:21      *Tb* – 1 Timothy 6:10  
*T* – Ecclesiastes 5:10      *F* – Luke 12:33  
*W* – Proverbs 13:11      *S* – 2 Chronicles 1:11–12

READ



REFLECT

- What forms of foolishness are we warned against in James 1:5–18 and which form has been most challenging for you?
- How does the Gospel invert (turn upside down) the way we most naturally think about foolishness and wisdom?
- Who do you know who appears to have deep, Christian financial wisdom? How does that wisdom manifest itself?

NOTES:



PRAY

**Call** | Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.  
**–Philippians 1:2**

**Confession** | Confessing aloud our sinful tendencies to...  
 • Doubt God's goodness and love for us.  
 • Forget that riches in this life are very, very temporary.  
 • Blame God for the temptations we experience.  
 • Believing that our money is ours and not a gift from God.

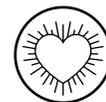
**Forgiveness** | Thank you Lord Jesus for forgiving us and blessing us with everything that we need. *Amen.*

**Supplication** | [*Bringing our specific requests to Christ Jesus who welcomes us.*]

**Lord's Prayer** | [*It is suggested that, if prayed as a household or small group, the members hold hands during the Lord's Prayer*]

*Our Father, who art in heaven,  
 hallowed be thy Name.  
 Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
 on earth as it is in heaven.  
 Give us this day our daily bread.  
 And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those  
 who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation,  
 but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom,  
 and the power, and the glory,  
 forever and ever. Amen.*

**Benediction** | The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. *Amen.*  
**–2 Corinthians 13:14**



ACT

- Ask God for financial wisdom. Ask in a straightforward manner and ask regularly. "*Heavenly Father, I want to be wise and not foolish. Please grant me wisdom in the way I use the money you have entrusted to me? Amen.*"
- Find someone who is wiser than you when it comes to finances. (FYI—wiser doesn't mean wealthier). Ask them if you can buy them a cup of coffee and ask them questions about how they use their money.
- Reframe the way you approach planning your personal budget. The question is not, "*How much of my money will I give back to the Lord? The question is, How much of God's money do I need to keep for my own needs?*"

## WEEK 2 | From Fear to Courage



READ

### Hebrews 13:5-16

For further reading:

*M* – Hebrews 13:5

*T* – Matthew 6:24

*W* – Luke 3:14

*Th* – Matthew 21:12-13

*F* – Proverbs 3:9

*S* – Psalm 31:24



REFLECT

- What forms of fear are warned against in Hebrews 13:5-16 and which form is most challenging to you?
- What kinds of things tend to steal your contentment and make you afraid you won't have enough?
- So often we confuse courage with recklessness. How is true courage that comes from the Gospel different than simply being reckless?

NOTES:



PRAY

**Call** | Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.  
–Psalm 19:14

**Confession** | Confessing aloud our sinful tendencies to...  
• Give in to anxiety and let it control us.  
• Use money to assuage our fear instead of looking to the Gospel.  
• Give without sacrificing.

**Forgiveness** | Thank you Lord Jesus for forgiving us and blessing us with everything that we need. *Amen.*

**Supplication** | [*Bringing our specific requests to Christ Jesus who welcomes us.*]

**Lord's Prayer** | [*It is suggested that, if prayed as a household or small group, the members hold hands during the Lord's Prayer*]

*Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those  
who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.*

**Benediction** | Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus forever and ever. *Amen.*



ACT

- When we are motivated by the gospel and not anxiety, we find that we can make financial sacrifices without fear. What is one financial sacrifice you can make in this season that would both please the Lord and benefit others?
- When you make this financial sacrifice—keep it a secret. Resist the impulse to humble-brag about it to someone else.

## WEEK 3 | From Selfishness to Generosity



READ

### 2 Corinthians 9:6–15

For further reading:

*M* – Malachi 3:10

*T* – Exodus 22:25

*W* – Deuteronomy 23:19

*Tb* – 1 Timothy 6:17–19

*F* – Deuteronomy 15:7

*S* – Matthew 6:1–4



REFLECT

- What forms of selfishness are warned against in 2 Corinthians 9:6–15 and which form is most challenging to you?
- The Gospel always leads to overflowing generosity—of all kinds of resources—including material resources and (according to the Biblical authors) especially money. Why do you think that is? Why is there a cause-effect link between the Gospel and financial generosity?
- Who do you know that best exemplifies this kind of abundant generosity? What, in their life, would you like to emulate?

NOTES:



PRAY

**Call** | I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord.”  
–Psalm 122:1

**Confession** | Confessing aloud our sinful tendencies to...

- Sow sparingly.
- Give reluctantly.
- Make peace with our own selfishness.

**Forgiveness** | Thank you Lord Jesus for forgiving us and blessing us with everything that we need. *Amen.*

**Supplication** | [*Bringing our specific requests to Christ Jesus who welcomes us.*]

**Lord's Prayer** | [*It is suggested that, if prayed as a household or small group, the members hold hands during the Lord's Prayer*]

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*And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those  
who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.*

**Benediction** | May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*



ACT

- Decide, in your heart (between you and the Lord), how much money you will give. Then give it *cheerfully* as an act of worship from a grateful creature to a generous God.



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ANGLICAN CHURCH