

DISCUSSION GUIDE

[GUARDRAILS]

KEEPING YOUR LIFE OUT OF THE DITCH

June 01/04, 2017


Finances


BIG IDEA: If you don't tell your money where to go, it will take you where you don't want to go.

GROUPS VISION

We believe life transformation happens when we engage with other people, with Jesus as our focus, and take next steps together. A next step is where we Ask, Listen, and Respond to take any action that advances our journey with Jesus.

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KEY VERSE

The highway of the upright avoids evil; he who guards his way guards his life.

Proverbs 16:17

POTENTIAL NEXT STEP

If you would like to learn how to experience more freedom in the area of finances, register for our "More than Money" classes beginning June 20 at our Flower Mound campus. Register online at valleycreek.org/grow

Do you have a story of someone taking a next step?

Share with us at groups@valleycreek.org

MAIN POINTS & SCRIPTURES

One of Jesus' primary teachings is in the area of money because He knows how quickly it can lead us into the ditch. **(John 14:6, Proverbs 16:17)** Worldly wealth will never give us godly peace or a life of freedom. **(Ecclesiastes 2:3-11)**

Four financial guardrails that will set us free and keep us free:

- 1. Return our tithe to God.** The word tithe means giving the first ten percent of our income. **(Proverbs 3:9-10)** God doesn't want the money out of our pockets, He wants the idols out of our hearts. He doesn't need our money. **(Deuteronomy 14:22-23)** We return our tithe to God because it belongs to Him. Tithing helps us put Him first in our lives because our hearts always follow and attach to our money. **(Matthew 6:21)** Tithing is about trust and lordship; it's a step of faith that teaches us to trust God and His ways, knowing His ways come with promise and blessing. **(Malachi 3:8-12)** Taxes belong to the government and the tithe belongs to God. **(Matthew 22:21)** Tithing is a kingdom principle since giving is the natural response to receiving His grace. **(Matthew 23:23, Matthew 10:8)**
- 2. Eliminate and stay out of debt.** Debt is self-imposed bondage; it's enslaving ourselves to someone else's authority. **(Proverbs 22:7, Proverbs 22:26-27, Deuteronomy 15:6, Romans 13:8)** Jesus set us free, why would we intentionally re-enslave ourselves by becoming tied up with an economic system designed to keep us enslaved? Debt is paying for the past, for what we already have. Jesus already paid for our past. Kingdom people live and think differently about finances. **(Isaiah 55:9)**
- 3. Start saving.** Debt is paying for our past; saving is investing in our future and believing God has good things in store. **(Proverbs 6:6-8)** When we have a vision for where God is inviting us to go and who He is inviting us to become, we start saving for that day. **(Proverbs 29:18)** Saving is being a good steward with our resources, not putting our hope in something other than God. **(1 Timothy 6:17)**
- 4. Live generously.** There is a joy and refreshing which comes only to the generous heart; it's part of our new nature in Christ, and it fulfills our created purpose. **(Proverbs 11:24-25 NLT, Proverbs 19:17, Acts 20:35)** With the resources God has entrusted to us, we are called to re-present the kingdom of God through generosity. **(Deuteronomy 8:18)** How we steward money determines what God will entrust to us because our spiritual maturity will never outpace our stewardship. **(Luke 16:10-12)**

DISCUSSION

1. Tithing is all about trust. Describe a time when you trusted God with your finances. What was the result? (See point #1)
2. Saving is preparation for where God is leading. What is your vision of where God is leading you? (See point #3)
3. There is joy that comes to a generous heart. Tell about a time when you were generous and the joy it brought your heart. (See point #4)
4. **What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?**
5. **What is your next step?**