

Small Group Discussion Guide

“It’s personal” (pt. 2) – 2/1/2015

Scripture: Various

Bottom Line: Respond to God’s love by being a generous giver.

INTRODUCTION: When it comes to money, would close friends or family know how you spend your money? If you are in a relationship, which one of you is more open to sharing personal finances with friends and family? Has money ever caused tension in your relationship? Let’s look at God’s perspective on money.

UNPACKING THE GOSPEL IN THE BIBLE:

The Bible is full of practical wisdom about money. It also warns believers of the dangers of money, not that money itself is evil, but the pull that it can have on a broken sinful human being is often strong. Why do you think money has this effect?

Read Colossians 1:16-18, Isaiah 42:8

What do these verses show you about God himself?

- God goes first. He is supreme and to be given the primary place in our lives. He alone deserves this honor. Therefore, it is wrong to put anything else in this place.

Read Romans 5:8, 1John 4:19, John 3:16

What do these verses show you about God’s actions?

- He gives. In fact, the Bible is clear that God gives first. He leads by example.

Read Exodus 20:1 and Matthew 6:33

How should we respond in light of this conversation and these verses?

- Because God first loved us and acted to redeem us, believers should strive to identify and replace any false idols in our lives with a deep and loyal love for Jesus.

LIVING OUT THE GOSPEL IN MY EVERYDAY LIFE:

How does someone go about putting God in his proper exalted place and then use money to glorify God?

- **Read 2 Cor. 9:7** Decide to put God first. Then pray for God to help you with money.
- Ask yourself what you really need, and identify expenses you have that may be extravagant and possibly wasteful.
- Discover where your money is actually going.
 - Finance software tools like Quicken, Mint.com, or iMoney are very helpful and some are free. They will help you calculate your true living expenses, debt, savings, tithe, and any wasted money.
- Work out a plan to pay off debt, give more generously, and not waste as much.
 - Small Group Leaders or Pastors would love to help you if you need it.