

Investing in  
**ETERNITY**

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**THE WELL**  
COMMUNITY CHURCH

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## About This Study

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There's no better place to invest, than eternity. Jesus is worth every sacrifice. He's worth our effort, time, resources, all that we have.

When we give Him these things, using them for His purposes, we'll see our return for eternity.

So, take what God's given you and put it to use. You, yes you, everybody; this is an all-hands-on-deck moment, feet too. Give Him what you've got, and see Him bring life to the lost and loving relationship to the lonely.

This Study will walk you through four main scriptures which compel us to use all that we have for God's eternal purposes. Jesus is worth it. Jesus transforms the little we have into a lot. Jesus's body is diverse, and every gift is needed. Jesus gave us these gifts with an expectation- that we'd invest them for Him!

Let's invest what God has given us, for eternity.

## How to Use This Guide

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Interact with God and the Scriptures for each week using the "Personal Daily Study" and "Study Questions" associated with the main Scripture for each week. Then in your 3Ds, use the discussion guide to spend time with God and each other in Life, Bible, and Prayer.

Investment Guide - Use this guide to help you create a plan for investing in the work of God through giving and serving. It is referenced throughout the "Weekly Study Questions" and can be found at the end of this Study Guide.

# Personal Daily Study

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Spend the entire week on the given section, slowly reading and rereading it in order to deeply, and accurately, interact with God. Also consider the below supplemental questions per each given week (You can also check out our other simple guides online for additional Bible study resources at [thewellsilverspring.org/resources](http://thewellsilverspring.org/resources).)

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## What Does It Say?

First, we ask: *“What does this say?”*

Read the passage a few times and carefully observe the words; give full attention to what it says. The purpose is to saturate in the content of the passage.

Look for things such as: important words (what’s being talked about), conjunctions (how is one idea connected to another), admonitions (something being commanded), contrasts, comparisons, illustrations, repeated phrases/ words, mood, and grammatical construction (verb tenses, prepositional phrases, etc.).

Linger here, listening to what God is saying in the detail of His words. Write down questions that the passage raises for you, things you don’t understand, ideas you’d like to pursue further.

## What Does It Mean?

We now ask ourselves: *“What does it mean?”*

Use the observations you just gathered, the context of the section, and other passages of scripture to get at the meaning of what you have read.

Consider writing out the synthesized truth in your own words. Outline, diagram, draw, or flowchart the line of thought or main idea of the passage. What jumped out?

Next, summarize the main truth you heard from God in His word.

Consider using [a commentary](#), the [GROW](#) or [SOAP](#) Bible study tools, the [ESV Study Bible](#) notes, or other resources to help.

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## So What?

Now we must ask: *“So what?”*

After meeting God in His word, we cannot ignore, or walk away unchanged. Why does the truth you heard matter to you today?

Is there something new to believe, cling to, or a sin to confess?

Is there something for you to do (or not do) in response to what you have read?

Is there someone with whom to share this truth (believer or nonbeliever)?

Do not forget to apply the gospel for your forgiveness, and as the reason compelling your obedience:

*Christ is enough!*

He has forgiven you for \_\_\_\_\_  
and He is the reason why we \_\_\_\_\_.

# Week One

## John 12:1-8

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### QUESTIONS

Do the above “Personal Daily Study” process. Slowly seek Him, deeply listen to His words, and journal as you interact with the living God. This will take you longer than one sitting with God in His word in this passage.

*What does it say?*

*What does it mean?*

*So what?*

What do we learn about the people in this passage from previous contexts where Jesus has met with Martha and Mary (Luke 10:38-41; John 11:1-44)?

What details in the story most highlight the main point of the interaction?

How would you describe the contrast of reactions to Mary’s service?

Read Matthew 13:44-46. How does the parable give insight into both Mary and Jesus’s sacrifice?

### SO WHAT?

Where and how do you sacrifice things, and for what?

How do these sacrifices highlight your values and treasures?

Consider Christ’s sacrifice for you. Prayerfully meditate on John Ch 19. What does His sacrifice highlight about the love and value He places on you?

How is Jesus calling you to sacrifice in service to Him in this season?

Begin working through the Investment Guide at the back of this study. Slowly consider how God is calling you to invest your life for Him. Consider the implications of this text on these decisions. Also consider which worship service you will attend, how you will serve for the next six months.

## Week Two

# Matthew 14:13-21

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### QUESTIONS

Do the above “Personal Daily Study” process. Slowly seek Him, deeply listen to His words, and journal as you interact with the living God. This will take you longer than one sitting with God in His word in this passage.

*What does it say?*

*What does it mean?*

*So what?*

Plotline the story. What do the key moments highlight for you?

What are the different motivations, emotions, internal scripts, beliefs, etc. shape each of the people in this story?

What would you say is the key moment of the story?

### SO WHAT?

How do you minimize the resources that you have?

What would it look like for you to “give these things over to Jesus” for His use?

Dream about the different ways that Jesus might use your resources for His purposes- your time, your money, your car, your house, your skills... linger here and imagine the things He might do.

What is Jesus calling you to give to Him, to do for Him? Do it.

Continue working through the Investment Guide at the back of this study. Slowly consider how God is calling you to invest your life for Him. Consider the implications of this text on these decisions. Also, commit to the worship service you will attend, and how you will serve Sunday mornings for the next six months.

# Week Three

## 1 Corinthians 12:12-26



### QUESTIONS

Do the above “Personal Daily Study” process. Slowly seek Him, deeply listen to His words, and journal as you interact with the living God. This will take you longer than one sitting with God in His word in this passage.

*What does it say?*

*What does it mean?*

*So what?*

Describe the interaction between the parts and the whole of the body.

Which is more important, the parts or the whole?

How does this section address both function, and relationship, in the body of Christ?

What gives value to the different parts of the body?

### SO WHAT?

Which part would you be, why?

Where/How do you say things like the parts of the body say in this passage?

What is the body missing from your specific service to the body?

What is the missing relationally from your interconnectedness in it?

Continue working through the Investment Guide at the back of this study. Slowly consider how God is calling you to invest your life for Him. Consider the implications of this text on these decisions. Also, commit to the worship service you will attend, and how you will serve Sunday mornings for the next six months.

# Week Four

## Matthew 25:14-30

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### QUESTIONS

Do the above “Personal Daily Study” process. Slowly seek Him, deeply listen to His words, and journal as you interact with the living God. This will take you longer than one sitting with God in His word in this passage.

*What does it say?*

*What does it mean?*

*So what?*

Who is who in this parable, and how would you characterize each character?

What aspects of the parable most engage or surprise you?

Describe in your own words why the master takes away the final servant's talent?

What does it mean to “enter the joy of your master”?

### SO WHAT?

What are the “talents” God has given you?

Where do you feel conviction over your use (or lack of use) of your talents?

Where do you (or might you) feel joy over the use of your talents?

What words would God say to you about the use of your resources for Him?

Finish working through the Investment Guide at the back of this study. Slowly consider how God is calling you to invest your life for Him. Consider the implications of this text on these decisions. Also, commit to the worship service you will attend, and how you will serve Sunday mornings for the next six months.

## Together With Your 3D Group

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You'll find the specific supplementary questions for the scripture passages in the above schedule. You can also find the full details for 3D discussion in our [3D Meeting Guide](#). Here's a summary:

### Bible

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*First, discuss the Bible passage from the week:*

- 1** What does the passage say? What jumps out to you? What key ideas, commands, promises, words, ideas, etc, struck you this week?

- 2** How would you summarize the main truth from the section? How might this inform your thinking and shape the way we are to live?

- 3** Where is the gospel connected to this truth? What does this highlight about who we are, or about who God is?

### Life

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*Share about how this truth impacts your life today:*

For you today, why does this specifically matter?

Is there something God calling you to obey in response to His word?

Is there something you need to do or not do? Something to believe, promise to cling to, or a sin to confess?

Is there someone to share this truth with?

Is there a neighbor, coworker, friend, or church member you could invite to join you at your next 3D meeting?

### Prayer

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*Pray throughout your time together.*

Offer praises to God when something encouraging is shared; ask for help from God as challenges are shared.

Close in prayer.

Spend time to respond to God's truth in the scriptures and from your conversation.

Praise Him.

Confess sin to Him.

Thank Him.

Ask Him for His power and provision.

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## Invest

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### INVESTING OUR TALENTS FOR ETERNITY- GOD'S VIEW OF SERVING

First let's think about investing in God's eternal kingdom through our service to Him. The diversity of ways to do so is as endless as the ways He has shaped each one of us. We give of ourselves in His service, as Christ has given of Himself to make us a part of His body, that we might care for each other as family, reach the lost, and redeem His broken world.

1. Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-26 and Romans 12:1-8 (if desired, read Matthew 25:14-30). Take notes here. What jumps out of these passages?

2. How did God create you? What three things do you know a lot about? What two things do you love? What one thing do you do well? How might God use these in and through the church?

3. Where do you see need in the body of The Well? What areas appeal to you? Where could you investigate serving for a month or two?

### CONTACTS

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## INVESTING GOD'S RESOURCES IN ETERNITY- GOD'S VIEW OF MONEY

Now let's think about investing in God's eternal kingdom with our money. We give generously because Christ has sacrificed and given all of Himself to us (2 Cor 8:9). We give to show off His grace and goodness, not to show off ourselves. We give to praise Him for our forgiveness, not to justify ourselves.

### 2 Corinthians 8:9

*For you know the **grace of our Lord Jesus Christ**, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.*

### 1 Chronicles 29:11-12

*Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for **everything in heaven and earth is yours**. Yours, O Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all.*

### Proverbs 21:20

*In the house of the **wise are stores of choice food and oil**, but a foolish man devours all he has.*

### Proverbs 22:7

*The rich rule over the poor, and **the borrower is servant** ("slave") **to the lender**.*

### Ecclesiastes 11:2

***Give portions** to seven, yes eight, for you do not know what disaster may come upon the land.*

### Philippians 4:11-13

*I am not saying this because I am in need, for **I have learned to be content** whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength.*

### 1 Timothy 6:6

*But **godliness with contentment is great gain**.*

### 2 Corinthians 9:6-9

*Remember this: Whoever **sows sparingly will also reap sparingly**, and whoever **sows generously will also reap generously**. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will*

*abound in every good work. As it is written: "He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever."*

The Old Testament sets a pattern of giving in percentages. God's people were called to support His work by giving percentages of their initial wages, ongoing harvests, special one-time gifts, animal sacrifices, leaving of grain in the fields for the poor, refusing work on the Sabbath, all in reaction to the goodness of God, knitting their hearts to Him while supporting the work of God in the Temple and among the poor (depending on how one counts it, 10% - 30% or more). The New Testament confirms that for a person who has received life in Christ and is led by the Spirit, he or she should give all things to God, deciding and planning how to give generously of their money in that pursuit.

If you plan to give in order to win the favor of God or people, please keep your money. Rather, we must give from the joy of who God is, and the favor He has already given us in Christ (sacrificing His precious Son for us). Give as an expression of your love and trust in Him and a desire to see His kingdom expand into the world. Pray that He would continue to mold your motives in accordance with these things. Everything is His. We simply have the choice to enjoy being a part of His work, and experiencing the joy of having our hearts tied to Him, rather than the fading material things of this world which will never satisfy.

Practically, followers of Christ have considered giving 10% of their income to the work of God as a starting point, training their hearts and growing in their trust of God as He increases their joy in obedience. Start by simply giving some percentage of your income, and watch how He works. He is and will be way too gracious to us.

## QUESTIONS

- What principles for 'your' money emerge in these verses?
- What are some pervasive barriers to the joy of generosity? Which ones most apply to your heart and situation?
- What are some key reasons and motivations to be generous with the money you have?

# My Plan for Giving

Though we try to seek satisfaction (spending) and security (saving) in our money, when we give generously we will find both in our God. A spender is never satisfied, a saver is never secure, but a giver is both. Use this sheet to create a plan for giving and prepare to have your heart transformed and joy increased.

1. Do you currently have a plan for giving?

Yes  No

2. What percentage of your income/possessions do you currently give? \_\_\_\_\_%

3. Read **2 Corinthians 9:6-15**, where Paul requests that the church in Corinth prepare their gift for the work of God in the surrounding churches, who have already given generously. (If you have time, read Chapters 8-9, some rich stuff!)

a. What motivation does Paul share for giving? (9:10-15; cf. 8:8-9, 8:1-5)

b. What process/principles does Paul explain? (9:6-7)

4. Create a Plan for generous, joyful, responsive giving from the gospel! Pray as you plan. Giving is motivated by the gracious work of God to save us, not by an attempt to please Him or others by giving money. We must be motivated by grace, to show Him off, not to justify ourselves or show ourselves off. (If you are married, do at least this section together)

a. To whom will you give? (the church, poor, missionaries, etc.)

b. When will you give?

c. What percent will you start with, and how will you divide it between those to whom you are giving?

d. "Make up your mind" to do so, and go for it!

## HOW TO GIVE TO GOD'S WORK VIA THE WELL

### Online

Visit [www.thewellsilverspring.org/give](http://www.thewellsilverspring.org/give)

### Sunday Worship

You can give cash or by check, placing them in the blue box on the Welcome Table. Address checks to "The Well Community Church"

### By Mail

Address checks to "The Well Community Church"

Mail to:

The Well Community Church  
9525 Colesville Road  
Silver Spring, MD. 20901

## FINANCIAL RESOURCES

*Money, Possessions, and Eternity + The Treasure Principle* – both by Randy Alcorn

*When the Game Is Over, It All Goes Back In The Box*- John Ortberg

*Your Money Counts* – Howard Dayton

Crown Financial Ministries – [www.crown.org](http://www.crown.org)

Financial Peace University – [www.ramseysolutions.com](http://www.ramseysolutions.com)

Keep on eye on out for upcoming Thrives