

GOD, MONEY & ME: Week 2

Life Group Notes



CONNECT QUESTIONS

Would you rather be super wise, or super beautiful/handsome? Why?

Who is your favourite Disney character?

Money does not have its own spirit...how can it? It has no life of its own - it is neither right nor wrong, good nor bad. We all know that money in itself is not a problem. It's what attaches to it that can be. The hopes and dreams and very often the reliance we put on money as being the answer to all our problems very quickly become a problem itself. Billy Graham "If a person gets his attitude to money right, it will help straighten out almost every other area of his life." Do you agree with this statement? Why? Why not?

We need to understand, that God is invested and interested in all that He governs, our lives and our wealth included. Check out **Matthew 6:19-24**. What stands out to you from these verses?

TRUTH: Money is owned by an all-able, all-providing, all-blessing God. His name is El Shaddai = the All Sufficient One! Therefore, money is not the problem. However, once it reaches a human hand, one of two spirits will seek to attach itself: the Spirit of God, or the Spirit of Mammon.

If we respond to Gods way with our money and surrender it first to God it has the blessing of God on it. What does it mean to surrender our money to God? What does this look like practically? Share any personal experiences of surrendering your finances to God.

If we fail to first surrender money to God, it will attract the spirit of Mammon which will work at distracting us from the purposes of God. Mammon = un-surrendered money that is empowered to draw us away. We all have many demands on our money, or responsibilities that require money – however these things can become the focus instead of God. How do you think we can practically manage our responsibilities but still honour God?

Money is a test for things that are of eternal significance. The first recorded sin in the early church had to do with the deception and control of money. Check out **Acts 5:1-11**. The name Ananias means “The Lord is Gracious.” Ananias & God’s graciousness on their lives. Had he become too familiar with the Grace of God? Had he got too comfortable with this and thought he could push the boundary? Why do you think Ananias missed it so badly – and why do you think the punishment was so severe?

How about us! Are we living so comfortably with the blessing that God has so graciously poured out on our lives that we take advantage of it? Have we forgotten that He is a Holy God and the He will NOT be mocked? Sin is sin and He will not accommodate it! Everything we have comes from His hand and He gives out of a heart of love and trust. Check out **Luke 16:12 & Jeremiah 17:10**. Are we trustworthy?

The Spirit of Mammon does three things: it brings deception, it desires worship, and it wants to control our lives! However, Jesus came to give us life, and life in all its abundance – check out these great promises: **Proverbs 3:3-5** and **Isaiah 26:3**. Are there any areas of your financial life that you need to address this week? Be honest with one another, and offer to support one another towards financial freedom!

PRAYER

Declare this over your life:

‘God I am putting Your spirit over what’s coming my way and over what I already have’.

Pray for one another that we would have the right attitude towards money.