

# THE MONEY REVOLUTION

## Home Group Discussion Guides



### HOME GROUP STUDY 1 : Everything Belongs to God

*This is the first of a series of five home group outlines on biblical principles for managing personal money. It is designed to accompany 'The Money Revolution', which can help group members develop their skills as stewards of the resources God has entrusted to them. The Group Sessions will focus on the principles covered in the books; members will be encouraged to apply these between sessions using the workbook. The group should be reassured that no-one will be asked to share personal financial details during the sessions.*

#### Warming Up

1. Imagine that a very generous person gave each member of your group £500. What would you do with it?

*Pause for thought, and ask each member of the group to make a note. Now debrief the group, and identify the various responses.*

2. Now imagine that the group was given £x'000, (calculate the equivalent of £500 for each member) How would we spend the money?

*This is a group discussion. The answer to the second question is likely to be different to the answer to the first. When we have shared ownership of money, we need to take into account different people's views and ideas.*

#### Bible Passage 1 - Psalm 24 verses 1 and 2.

*A member of the group should read this aloud*

3. What does it mean that the earth is the Lord's?
4. What about our own land ownership when we buy a house?
5. The psalmist goes on to say "all who live in it"? What does it mean to us that we are the Lord's?
6. In between "the world" and "all who live in it" is the phrase "and everything in it". Do we think this means plants, mountains and animals, or does it mean literally everything - houses, cars, possessions etc? If so, what is our role in relation to our homes, cars and possessions?

*This section is intended to introduce the fundamental principle that everything belongs to God. Compared with the world view, where ownership is exclusive - "what is mine cannot be yours"; God's ownership is different. He entrusts things to us as stewards - to have and enjoy, but also to care for, to nurture and ultimately to be accountable to him for.*

#### Bible Passage 2 - 1 Chronicles 29 verses 1 to 17

*Again, a member of the group should read this aloud*

7. What effect does David's gifts have on the leaders and people of Israel?
8. What does David's prayer in verses 10-13 reveal about his view of God?
9. What does verses 14-16 tell us about David's understanding of the principle that everything belongs to God?

*This reading introduces one sense of the word "Revolution" - that which belongs to God is taken from his hands and placed in our hands. In turn, we take them out of our hands, and offer them back to God. The other sense of revolution is true too. In a consumerist society, you are what you own. The world around us often suggests that our homes, cars, designer clothes, possessions etc define who we are. To say that everything belongs to God is both revolutionary and liberating!*

## Life Application

10. Which of our belongings, or our time or our talents do we find it easiest to see as belonging to God?

*Ask the group to pause for a moment, and to reflect on God's ownership of all that they have. This allows each member to think this through for themselves, rather than the discussion moving on as soon as one group member makes a contribution.*

11. Which things do you find particularly hard to see as belonging to God? Why do you think that is?
12. Someone has described it as being like seeing God's name next to ours on our credit cards, on our bank account or on our mortgage deeds. How does this change your view of how you use your time, spend your money, or what you do with your house?
13. What difference would it make if everyone was convinced of this principle?

*This last point aims to help the group see the big picture. If everyone understood this principle then probably things would be different! Here are 3 possibilities :-*

- ① *We would spend more carefully and more ethically - knowing that we are accountable for how we allocate the resources God has entrusted to us.*
- ② *We would probably give more generously, both as individuals and through the allocation of our national government spending.*
- ③ *We might as a society have significantly less debt - recognizing the sufficiency of what we have been given.*

## Responding in Prayer

*The group might like to spend a little time reflecting in prayer. The leader might ask God to show the group how you can each commit your belongings to him - what it means to have joint ownership.*

## Follow Up

*When you are using 'The Money Revolution' in conjunction with this series of home group discussions, we will recommend some pages for group members to work through during the week following the discussion. This week we suggest members might read through pages 7 to 17. Pages 7 to 11 provide an overview of the five principles, and pages 12 to 17 explore the first principle in more depth.*