

THE MONEY REVOLUTION

Home Group Discussion Guides



HOME GROUP STUDY 4 : Build Up Treasure in Heaven

This is the fourth group discussion on biblical principles for managing personal money. Each discussion explores one of the principles in 'The Money Revolution', a simple workbook which seeks to help group members build their skills as stewards of the resources God has entrusted to them.

Warming Up

- 1 What would you save in the event of your house catching fire? All people and pets are safe, and you have time to safely make sure that one or two things are safe. What would they be?

Have a moments pause, whilst each member of the group thinks of what that might be. Then encourage the group to share their items, and comment on the diversity or otherwise of what would be saved..

Bible Passage 1 - Matthew 6:19-22.

A member of the group should read this aloud

- 2 What does Jesus mean about moths, rust and thieves?
- 3 So what's wrong with treasure on earth?

Bible Passage 2 - Ecclesiastes 5:10-15

Again, a member of the group should read this aloud. This passage suggests that some money wisdom is timeless!

- 4 Look at verse 10. What does this mean? Is it true?

However much money we have, we don't have enough. At every level of wealth, human ambition aspires for a little more, pursuing dreams that we can never fulfil. John D Rockefeller once said "I have made many millions, but they have brought me no happiness", a sentiment echoed by many lottery winners who's dreams of lifelong satisfaction and happiness are often left unfilled.

5. What does the next verse mean? Is it still true today?
6. Note verse 12. Do you think it is true -, the more we have, the more we have to worry about? What leads to "money worries"?
7. This passage ends with the timeless truth in verse 15 - Everything that we store up in this life is left behind when we die.

Back to John D Rockefeller, one of America's richest people. When he died someone was intrigued to know how much his estate was worth. "How much did he leave?" they asked his executor. Back came the swift response : "All of it!"

Bible Passage 3 - Luke 12:16-21

One of the group should read the passage aloud.

8. What does this passage say about storing up treasure in heaven?

9. So why do people store up so much treasure on earth?

Some seek security. One of the challenges of the parable of the rich farmer is that it points to where we might seek to place our security. The farmer believes that having a store of wealth will provide an easier future, and provide security in the face of unanticipated rainy days. Yet in the face of an imminent death, the farmer's security was worthless. We too are faced with the question : where do we find security?

10. So, is Jesus saying that we shouldn't save or enjoy good things?

11. How might we strike an appropriate balance between treasure in heaven and treasure on earth?

Life Application

12. Matthew 6:21 says ' For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also'. Three verses later, we read "you cannot serve two masters; you cannot serve both God and money." How can we tell which master we are serving?

And so we are led on to the point that Jesus makes as he teaches about where we store up our treasure; that our priorities and our heart are inextricably linked. The first question related to what we'd save from a fire. That starts to give us a little insight into where our heart is, what our priorities are.

13. What practical things can we do to build up 'treasure in heaven'?

14. How important is it, that we should build up 'treasure in heaven'?

This question teases out the fact that salvation is not dependent upon good deeds, treasure stored in either heaven or earth, but solely on God's grace in offering us salvation through faith in Christ. Nevertheless, it clearly is pleasing to God when we care for those who are in need, and when we give to fulfil the mission and purposes of the Kingdom.

Responding in Prayer

Although it may be uncomfortable, we need to ask God to show us where our heart is. Are there some aspects of our lives where we are focusing too much on earthly treasure? We might pray that God would reveal these to us, and give us the strength to do something about it.

Follow Up

It is recommended that group members use 'The Money Revolution' workbook alongside these group discussions. This week we suggest members might read through pages 36 to 48, and do the exercises in those chapters.