

Small Group Study Guide



The Heart of the Matter **Oct 13, 2019**

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, none of us really want our culture dictating how we use our resources but that is what happens when we don't follow the advice of your Son. So would you help us understand how to be better managers of your resources. Help us to use the resources you have entrusted to us in a way that will have eternal consequences. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

SCRIPTURE:

Luke 16:1-13

16 Jesus also said to the disciples, “A certain rich man heard that his household manager was wasting his estate. 2 He called the manager in and said to him, ‘What is this I hear about you? Give me a report of your administration because you can no longer serve as my manager.’ 3 “The household manager said to himself, What will I do now that my master is firing me as his manager? I’m not strong enough to dig and too proud to beg. 4 I know what I’ll do so that, when I am removed from my management position, people will welcome me into their houses. 5 “One by one, the manager sent for each person who owed his master money. He said to the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ 6 He said, ‘Nine hundred gallons of olive oil.’ [a] The manager said to him, ‘Take your contract, sit down quickly, and write four hundred fifty gallons.’ 7 Then the manager said to another, ‘How much do you owe?’ He said, ‘One thousand bushels of wheat.’ [b] He said, ‘Take your contract and write eight hundred.’ 8 “The master commended the dishonest manager because he acted cleverly. People who belong to this world are more clever in dealing with their peers than are people who belong to the light. 9 I tell you, use worldly wealth to make friends for yourselves so that when it’s gone, you will be welcomed into the eternal homes. 10 “Whoever is faithful with little is also faithful with much, and the one who is dishonest with little is also dishonest with much. 11 If you haven’t been faithful with worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? 12 If you haven’t been faithful with someone else’s property, who will give you your own? 13 No household servant can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be loyal to the one and have contempt for the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”



INTRODUCTION

You might be surprised to find out that Jesus actually said more about money than heaven. What he said is the best financial advice you will ever receive if you want to find financial peace and add meaning to your life. Does our money add meaning to our lives or is it the meaning of our lives?

If you choose to live for yourself, you'll only have yourself to show for it. This week, spend some time wrestling with one thing that breaks your heart—something that perhaps you can be a means to helping. What step can you take to move in that direction.

QUESTIONS

- 1) What do you feel you regularly spend too much money on?
- 2) When it comes to managing money, what are three words that best describe you?
- 3) Parables are fictional stories Jesus told in order to teach his followers something important. On that note, read Luke 16:1–13 on page 1.
 - In one sentence, try to clarify what Jesus was challenging his listeners to do.
 - In verse 11, Jesus contrasts worldly wealth with true riches. What do you think are the “true riches” Jesus refers to? Are you currently being entrusted with any true riches?
 - If it's true that no one can serve both God and money, what are the differences between the person who serves money and the person who serves God?
- 4) At funerals, people tell stories as opposed to parading “stuff.” Which of these questions can help you shift from “stuff” to “stories”?
 - What do you want people to line up to thank you for at the end of your life?
 - What breaks your heart right now that you could use your money to do something about?

FINAL APPLICATION

If money is intended to be a means to something rather than the meaning of life, what would be a win statement for your money? If it's not just consumption, upgrades, and waste, what is it?