

Small Group Study Guide



Flip the Script Oct 20, 2019

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for your Holy Spirit that nudges us toward self-control. We know that you want to see more of the fruit of the Spirit in us, but too many times we lack self-control and let our appetite control our money and possessions. Lord, we really want to get this right. So would you help us to seek first your kingdom. So give us eyes to see and ears to hear. We pray this in the matchless and powerful name of Jesus. Amen.

SCRIPTURE:

Matthew 6:24, 33 Common English Bible (CEB)

24 No one 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.

33 Instead, desire first and foremost God's kingdom and God's righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Galatians 5:16-17, 22-23

¹⁶ I say be guided by the Spirit and you won't carry out your selfish desires. ¹⁷ A person's selfish desires are set against the Spirit, and the Spirit is set against one's selfish desires. They are opposed to each other, so you shouldn't do whatever you want to do.

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against things like this.

INTRODUCTION

Are you mastering your money or being mastered by it? Maybe it's time to flip the script. Instead of striving to have enough money to satisfy a me-first appetite, Jesus encouraged his listeners to have an others-first approach.

Just like an appetite that will not be permanently satisfied, having a me-first mentality about money will always be a temptation. When we have an others-first approach with our money, we practice self-control and self-denial. When we do that, we will be living in sync with our heavenly Father, who wants us to not be mastered by our money. So, do you have money, or does money have you?

QUESTIONS

- 1) What would you do if you received an extra paycheck this month?
- 2) Read Galatians 5:16-17 on page 1. In his letter to the Christians in the region of Galatia, Paul gives a number of instructions on how to find freedom in life by following Christ. A key one is to “walk by the Spirit,” where we are nudged by God through our consciences. When it comes to money, how is what the flesh desires in contrast to what walking by the Spirit looks like? At the end of verse 17, Paul likens “acts of the flesh” to doing “whatever you want.” What are some consequences of doing “whatever we want” with our money?
- 3) Read Galatians 5:22-23. How can our money be used to demonstrate the fruit of the spirit? What do the acts of the Spirit listed have in common?
- 4) Read Matthew 6:24 on page 1. As a way to consider the principle Matthew introduces in v.24, look at the list below. If a “1” is being mastered by your money and a “10” is mastering your money, how would you rate yourself? Why?
 - a) Mastered by your money – Live, Save, Give.
 - b) Mastering your money – Give, Save, Live.
- 5) Give some words that describe what you want your relationship with God to look like. How can putting God and others first in the area of your money help you take a step toward that kind of relationship?

FINAL APPLICATION



Here's a challenge: For the next two months, choose a percentage of your income and give it away as soon as you get paid. How does that challenge make you feel? Do any tensions arise when you consider taking this challenge? What are they? What organization would you be excited to give to? Why?