

# Small Groups

## SERMON-BASED STUDY GUIDE

Sermon on the Mount – Week 12 – *Living Generously*

[Date], 2023

### DIGGING IN:

1. On a scale of 1-10, how do you respond to hearing sermons about money in church? Circle the number that best represents your response. Share why you chose that number.

1-----2-----3-----4-----5-----6-----7-----8-----9-----10  
Hate it/annoyed by it Deeply appreciate it

2. Alex shared Luther's list of 3 Conversions that a believer goes through – Conversion of the head, the heart, and the wallet. Why do you think Luther included the wallet in the topic of conversion? Why does our money matter in the context of faith in Christ?

### MAKING IT REAL:

3. Read Matthew 6:1-4
4. In 6:2, Jesus makes the assumption that his listeners engage in the spiritual practice of giving to the needy. Not *if*, but *when* you give. . . . Take a few minutes to silently think about where you are with your giving. Write a list of places where you engage in generosity (This is not to share with anyone else, it's just for you as you consider this week's teaching).
5. "Giving is a spiritual principle that transcends financial transactions. It is an expression of trust, gratitude, and obedience to God. Understand that when you give, you align yourself with God's heart for generosity." Respond to this quote.
6. Complete the "Want to Dig a Little Deeper?" section (below) together.
7. Alex shared that Generosity. . .
  - Begins with a "Why" (Jesus asked us to do it and to trust that the reward is worth it)
  - Requires a Plan (You have to budget for it, whether the amount is small or large, and need to determine where and to whom God is asking you to give.)
  - Ends with an Action (Actually giving)

In which of those areas do you need the most encouragement, support, or assistance? What would be a next step you could take to move toward being more aligned with God's heart for generosity?

## WANT TO DIG A LITTLE DEEPER?

(Extra Bible study ideas)

On the last page of this guide, you will find a few of the multitude of scriptures that talk about money.

- Pray and ask God to speak to you from His Word about your relationship with money. Read each of the scriptures.
- Underline or circle words and phrases that resonate with you – that hit you in a particular way.
- Pray and ask God how He wants you to respond to what you are reading.
- If it feels appropriate, share with the group what God is saying to you. (If you are doing this on your own, think of one person you could share this with and connect with that person to talk about it).

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### *Where to Give*

If you want to give to South Fellowship and its ministries, or to the Benevolence Fund (to help the needy in our church and community), you can go to

- The Church Center App
- [www.southfellowship.org/give](http://www.southfellowship.org/give)
- The giving boxes in the back of the worship center (for cash or check)

There are other ministry organizations that are also worth supporting financially. Take time to pray and ask God where *He* wants you to share resources. Then look into ministries that align with whatever God is putting on your heart.

### *Red Couch Theology Podcast*

If you or group members have questions around parts of the sermon that are not included in the discussion guide, it's always helpful to listen to *Red Couch Theology*, where Alex and Aaron talk about the sermon and answer questions that come in from people in the congregation. <https://guysdrinkingtea.podbean.com/>

Proverbs 3:9 Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops;

Proverbs 13:11 Dishonest money dwindles away, but whoever gathers money little by little makes it grow.

Ecclesiastes 5:10 Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income.

Deuteronomy 15:11 There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your fellow Israelites who are poor and needy in your land.

Deuteronomy 16:17 Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the LORD your God has blessed you.

Matthew 6:2-4 "So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Matthew 6:24 "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

Matthew 19:21 Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

Luke 6:38 Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." Luke 12:33 Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys.

Acts 4:33-34 And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

Rom 13:8 Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law.

1 Corinthians 16:2 On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.

2 Corinthians 9:6-7 Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

1 Tim 6:6-10 But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

1 Tim 6:17-19 Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.