



Community Group Discussion Guide

July 5, 2015

Week 5 | Be Financially Wise

Selected Scriptures

Introduction

The thing I love about the book of Proverbs is how it takes key truths for everyday life and puts them on the bottom shelf where we can all reach them. It's a series of short statements that speak in a practical way to actions we will need to take to live a successful life.

A modern day word for these statements is Life Hacks. Life Hacks are simple ways of doing things that when done, add value to our lives. The book of Proverbs is full of Life Hacks.

631 total to be exact. And none of them are about anything little. Each one is a brilliant insight on how to live the most productive life possible.

Questions for Study

1. Think of an activity you were involved in growing up – a sport, piano lessons, etc. What role did “fundamentals” play in your ability to succeed in this activity? Why?
2. What are some “fundamentals” of financial wisdom? Draw from Jeff’s sermon, and also consider other financial wisdom you may have received along the way.
3. How are these fundamentals essential for financial wisdom from God’s perspective?
4. Financial wisdom isn’t simply about how much money you have in your bank account. Biblically, financial wisdom includes certain virtues and “heart issues” as well. A few of these virtues are listed below – read these through and discuss how they’re connected to the way we approach finances.
 - Contentment (Read Proverbs 30:8-9 and 1 Timothy 6:6-10)
 - Joy (Read 2 Corinthians 9:7)
 - Sacrifice (Read Luke 21:1-4 and 2 Corinthians 8:1-5)
 - Generosity (Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 and 1 Timothy 6:17-19)
 - Hard work (Read Proverbs 6:6-11)
5. Choose 2-3 of these virtues listed above and discuss someone you know who exemplifies one or more of these traits. On a practical level, what do these virtues look like as they’re lived out?
6. Martin Luther – a leader of the Protestant Reformation in the 16th century – said Martin Luther said, "There are three conversions necessary: the conversion of the heart, mind, and the purse [i.e., our wallet]." What do you think he means by us needing “a conversion of our wallet”? What might this look like?
7. What practical steps do you need to take in light of what you learned about financial wisdom? Consider especially the following areas:
 - Giving:
 - Saving:
 - Spending:
8. If you’ve got a family, what are some practical ways you can apply this Life Hack? In your marriage? Raising your children?