

## **START HERE**

### Introduction

This group leader tool is designed to help you walk through each week of this study. It's not meant to replace the leader guide, but to supplement it by adding additional insights, ideas, and understanding each week, along with suggested timing for a 90-minute small group meeting.

Before you dive into your study, please read the next two pages of this tool and pages 2–5 in your leader guide. In addition, you'll find very helpful and practical tips on pages 54–57 of the leader guide, including guidance on childcare, tips for facilitating a great group discussion, and more!

## **Important Things for This Study:**

#### 1. Remember the Purpose of This Study

The goal of this study is to focus on our hearts and beliefs. It is designed to help people examine the beliefs and narratives they've adopted from both culture and Scripture—to look at their relationship with money, to be encouraged where their heart and money are aligned with God's heart, and to wrestle with how to respond in the areas where they're not aligned.

This study is not about guilt. Instead, it is an encouragement for God's people to adopt the right relationship with money. This isn't easy—it often requires time and intentional effort—but God's ways are always best and allow us to enjoy a life of contentment and peace.

#### 2. Behavior Follows Beliefs

All behaviors stem from stated and unstated beliefs. Our relationship with money is shaped by our stories and what we truly believe about money.

For example, if I grew up poor and my parents always struggled to scrape by, I may tend to hoard money and resist spending it. I might fear running out of money and adopt a scarcity mindset—rather than truly believing that God will provide for my needs and that I am called to be a good steward of whatever He gives me.

Encourage yourself and your group members to place their weekly memory cards somewhere visible to remind them each week of the truths they are learning.

#### 3. Focus on Percentages Over Dollar Amounts

In a study about finances, it's important to remind people that we are not here to compare ourselves to others. Encourage people not to share specific dollar amounts—unless they feel it's particularly relevant—but instead to focus on percentages. You'll explore this more in Weeks 2 and 3, when you examine what parts of your spending are for giving, owing, living, and growing. And these weeks in particular, don't forget to use the online pie calculator at OBCC.CHURCH/ALLHIS

#### 4. Take Advantage of Online Tools & Resources

Each week, remind your group to look at the online tools and resources connected to the study. Whether it's an online spending tracker or registering for an event or seminar, your group will want to stay engaged with what's available at OBCC.CHURCH/ALLHIS

#### 5. Reach Out to Your Community Leader or Pastor Justin

As you go through this study, don't forget to share questions, breakthroughs, or stories with your Community Leader or with Pastor Justin. We'd both love to help if you get stuck, and we'd love to hear what God is teaching you and your group as you move through this study.

# **Session 1: Principles**

GROUP LEADER NOTES & SESSION WALK THROUGH



#### **KEY IDEA TO FOCUS ON THIS WEEK**

God owns all that we have. It's easy to think that if I give some money to charity or the church then God is happy with me and I can do whatever I want with the rest of my money, BUT what the Scriptures says is that God owns all that we have. This means that if we are followers of Christ, then we need to surrender all that we have to Him, whether that's our lives, our pocketbooks, our future, or our families.

### **Introduction** (2 min)

Have someone in your group read the introductory paragraph at the top of page 7.

## **Opening Discussion** (10 min)

Have someone read the opening discussion question. This is meant to be something fun and lighthearted to help start the discussion and get a feel for what people's relationship with money is currently like.

After everyone has shared, read the note at the bottom of page 7 and then start the video.

### Message (21 min)

To access the video for this session, visit VIMEO.COM/SHOWCASE/11750479 or go to obcc.church/group-curriculum and password for the page is leader7702

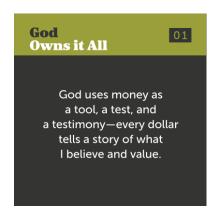
## **Group Discussion** (30-35 min)

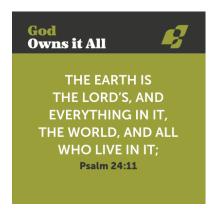
If you don't have time to cover all the questions this week, try focusing on questions 1, 2, 4, and 6. Remember, if you don't cover all the questions that is okay. Focusing on a few key questions or even asking a follow up question to help your group better apply this week's lesson will often yield better results than just trying to rush through each question.

Remember, if your group is larger than 6 people then try breaking into groups of 2-3 people to discussion question 1 and 2. Set your timer on your phone for approximately 5 minutes and then afterwards, have a few people share their answers to these opening two questions.

## Taking the Next Step (10 min)

Have someone in your group read the paragraph at the top of page 11 then have everyone grab the memory cards out of their books and as a group read the Bible verse as a group on card #1 and then read the key idea as a group. Challenge yourself and your group members to memorize these two things each week because unless our beliefs change and are molded by God's Word, then our behavior will never shift long term.





Second, this week's activity is for people to track their spending this week (if they don't normally do this). The goal is to make people aware of where their money is going and to spend some time reflecting on that with the four questions at the bottom of page 11.

To make this easier to do, encourage people to try using an online tool like everydollar.com (free and paid version of app) or mint.com or they can download a printable PDF from OBCC.CHURCH/ALLHIS to help them track their spending.

### Group Prayer (10 min)

IDEA TO TRY: There are many ways to handle group prayer, but a simple and effective way to do this is to grab some index cards to use each week for prayer time. Pass one card out to each person in your group then ask them to write down a personal and specific prayer request along with their name and phone number at the top of their card. Afterwards, have them swap it with another person in the group of the same gender and encourage them to pray for this person and send them a text this week too. This is an easy, but effective way to nudge the men in the group to reach out to one another, and for the women to do the same.

### Wrap Up (5 min)

Be sure to look at page 56 & 57 to rotate who's bringing a snack for this study and to read the group agreement to remind the group of what the purpose and intentions of this small group are.