



JOURNEY GROUPS

JAN 11 LEADER GUIDE

LEADERS NOTES

A few notes for you as a leader as you meet again this week:

- As we are starting up again, make relationship building a big priority! Take time to talk, play games, share stories, and eat!
- As the leader, make sure you have heard the sermon and have prayed for your group - for your time together and for them as individuals!
- In this winter/spring semester, what roles can you help others in your group step into? Are there potential leaders that need to be challenged to take a week to lead? Is there a prayer person that can take over the prayer time? Is there someone passionate about serving in our community - if so, have them (with your help) plan a time to serve as a group!
- How are you? Are you serving out of an overflow from your time with the Lord? Make sure you are filling up before pouring out each week!
- **SAVE THE DATE!** For those that can make it, we are going to have a gathering for the Journey Group leaders and hosts (not whole groups) on **Monday, January 26 at 6:30pm**. This will be a chance to meet our new Pastor, Ryan Brandenburger, who will be overseeing Journey Groups moving forward. It will also be a chance to celebrate what God is doing!

SHARE

Ice Breaker Questions (use whichever questions you want):

- When you were a kid, what was something you considered a huge treasure that now seems kind of silly?
- What's one simple thing in your life right now that brings you genuine joy but doesn't cost much (or anything at all)?

STUDY

Digging Deeper into "The Sermon on the Mount"

1. The past two weeks we have been challenged at church to take the God First challenge: to give God the first part of every day, especially being careful to not go on a screen or look at your smartphone until you have spent time with God through the scriptures and in prayer. Has anyone taken the challenge and how is it going?
2. **Have someone read Psalm 24, verse 1.**
3. How does knowing that everything we have belongs to God help us have a right attitude towards money?
4. The big question on Sunday was, "What is your relationship with money?" Is it a thing, a tool? Or is it your god? Matt said on Sunday that 'money is a mirror.' Our scripture study today should help us evaluate our true views and attitudes towards money. **Have someone read Matthew 6:19-24.**
5. Thinking about verses 19-21, what were some examples of wealth for the people who first heard this message? (*clothing, extra olive oil or grain, livestock, etc*)
6. What are status symbols of wealth for people today?
7. Why does Jesus tell his disciples to 'Stop storing up treasures on earth?'
 - a. What does it look like in real life when we store up treasures on earth?
 - b. What happens as a result when our main focus is on treasures here?
8. How do we go about storing up for ourselves 'treasure in heaven?'
9. So as far as money and possessions are concerned, what is in bounds and what would Jesus consider out of bounds? (*in bounds: having some money and possessions, saving for a rainy day, having sensible provision for your senior years, and enjoying the good things God has given you. Out of bounds: selfish accumulation of wealth and goods, living an extravagant and luxurious lifestyle, equating a person's worth to their level of wealth, etc*)
10. **Verse 21** ends with an epic one-liner: "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." What does Jesus mean by this statement?
11. Reminder: Jesus is talking about this because He wants your heart!

12. Have someone read Matthew 6:22-23.
13. The word healthy can be translated: 'generous.' The word 'unhealthy' means: stingy/miserly.
- How can a generous person see the world clearly?
 - How does being stingy or miserly in your attitude towards material things end up making you blind?
14. The end of verse 23 reads: "If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!" If we think an insatiable ambition and idolatrous love for worldly wealth is an enlightened way to live we are truly walking in darkness. Why is an endless drive for more, more, more, so detrimental to our callings?
15. Have someone read verse 24. What did we learn on Sunday about Mammon?
16. Jesus is saying its impossible to put God first and to pursue worldly wealth for selfish purposes at the same time. How can we avoid putting our trust and sense of security in worldly wealth and the world economy?
17. Read 1 Timothy 6:6-11. What can you take from this passage personally to help you keep your trust in Jesus and to keep you from getting 'unhealthy' eyes?
18. How can we grow to be thankful with enough? How can we get out of a jealousy or greedy mindset?
19. How can giving and investing in those 'treasures in heaven" help us break free from the shackles of worldly materialism?
20. How can you enjoy our true treasure, Jesus this week?

PRAYER

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