

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION

WEEK: JANUARY 24-30, 2026

SERIES INFO

How to Tame a Monster

Money isn't evil... but it is **powerful**. It shapes our decisions, fuels our stress, and quietly competes for control of our hearts. Most of us don't notice when our money stops serving us—and starts leading us. In this four-week series, we'll expose the money monster, uncover what feeds it, put real boundaries around it, and reclaim the freedom God intends for our lives. Because money makes a terrible master... and it's time to teach it who's boss.

PERSONAL FUN FACTS

- What was your first “paying job” and what was the first thing you remember spending your own money on?
 - Did that purchase feel exciting, empowering ... or maybe disappointing?

TAKEAWAYS

What were the greatest “takeaways” you had from the message this week about how to tame a monster?

DISCUSSION

1. Generosity Breaks Money's Grip

Scripture: Luke 12:13-21; 1 Timothy 6:6-10

How we live expresses our faith in Christ. Our personal lifestyle is made up of our attitudes and values, activities, how we conduct ourselves, our goals, passions, and our accumulation of material possessions. The world around us insists that the “good life” consists of accumulating possessions and indulging in luxuries. Jesus shows us that life is fulfilling only when we seek to extend His kingdom by loving, serving, and giving to others. In God's economy, material wealth is not the goal—these things are temporary; but spiritual riches are eternal. Our money and what we have in our possessions are to be used to serve the Lord by serving others. Being generous in life can be compared to spiritual resistance training: it retrains our hearts, it dissipates our fears, and it breaks the illusion we have that money is control. Generosity opens both our hands and our hearts.

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DISCUSSION CONTINUED

1) Why does generosity feel like a risk even when we have enough?

2) How can money quietly become a substitute for trusting God?

2. Generosity Is an Act of Worship

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 9:6-8; Romans 12:1

Generosity is an act of worship because it is a matter of the heart. In fact, God cares more about the heart than He does the amount. God loves a “cheerful giver.” What is a cheerful giver? First, it is one who does not give reluctantly, saying, “I guess I should give.” Or “I’ll give, but I’ll worry about it afterward.” A cheerful giver doesn’t give out of a sense of obligation, social pressure, guilt, or manipulation. God doesn’t want to extract our generosity from us; He wants us to give from a heart of gladness, freedom, and joy. Did you know that the Greek word Paul uses for “cheerful” is the word *hilaros*—the root word of our English word, “hilarious.” This is not some kind of shallow “happiness.” This is deeply rooted joy that is experienced by trusting in God. It is having spiritual confidence in God rather than just having a sense of emotional excitement.

1) Why does “giving cheerfully” matter?

2) When you think about giving, what emotion surfaces to the top—joy, fear, tension, or reluctance? Explain.

3) What might God be reshaping in us when we give joyfully as an act of worship?

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3. Grace Initiates Generosity

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 8:1-9

This passage teaches us how generosity is not the overflow of wealth—it is the overflow of grace. How do severe trials and extreme poverty go with overflowing joy and rich generosity? Truly, this is not natural economics, but it was how the Macedonian churches were spiritually formed. Grace produces generosity that our current reality and circumstances cannot always explain. Generosity is something that God grows in us; it is evidence of spiritual maturity and the fruit of a transformed heart. Mature faith asks the question, “How much can I trust God?” Notice what the church gave first. It wasn’t their money, possessions, or resources. “... They gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God’s will.” Their hearts were surrendered, and then generosity flowed from them naturally.

1) How does seeing generosity as initiated by grace rather than obligation or duty change your emotional response to giving?

2) What would it look like to see generosity as participation with God in His work instead of subtraction from our personal resources?

APPLICATION AND ASSESSMENT

- Where does money currently hold the most power in my life?
- What would it look like to trust God there? (above question)
- Is there one step of generosity God might be inviting me into?

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PRAYER

Father God,
We confess how easily we trust money to give us only what You can.
Freedom. Security. Self-worth.
Teach us to loosen our grip and to give with joy,
And to worship You with every part of our lives, including our finances.
Break money's hold on our hearts, and form us into generous people who reflect
Your generosity of grace to us.
In Jesus' name, Amen.