THE ONE ABOUT MONEY
PART 1: GIVE EVERYTHING

ICEBREAKER: WHO WANTS TO BE A MILLIONAIRE

Imagine that you just won a reality TV show - like *Survivor*, *The Amazing Race*, or *The Voice* - and you are walking away with a million dollars. No taxes, no strings attached. You can do whatever you want with it. What do you do first?" Pick three things from the list below:

Buy your dream home (fully furnished).	Pay off all your debts (and your family's too).
Travel the world for a year.	Start a business or a passion project.
Buy a private island or lake house getaway.	Create a scholarship for students in need.
Build your dream car collection.	Set up your family for the future.
Invest it all and live off the interest.	Hire a personal chef, trainer, or life coach.

STUDY: MARK 10:17-31

Money touches almost every part of our lives - but Jesus talks about it not because He wants something from us, but because He wants something for us. He knows that how we handle money reveals what (or who) has our hearts.

In Mark 10, a wealthy young man comes to Jesus wanting to be sure that he has eternal life. He's moral, successful, and sincere. Take a few minutes with your discipleship partners to read these verses carefully.

Read Mark 10:17-22

- What stands out to you most about the beginning of this encounter?
- What do you notice about how the man approaches Jesus, and what does that tell you about what he values?
- What do you think this young man was hoping Jesus would say?
- Do you think Jesus' challenge to this man was about money and possessions, or was He pointing out something deeper about our hearts?

After the rich young man walked away, Jesus turned to His disciples and helped them understand what had happened. He explained how difficult it can be for those who trust in wealth to enter God's Kingdom.

Read Mark 10:23-27

- Why do you think Jesus said it's so hard for the rich to enter the Kingdom of God?
- What makes wealth or comfort such a strong competitor for our trust in God?
- How does Jesus' statement "With man this is impossible, but not with God" bring hope to people who feel like they could never measure up?

After hearing Jesus talk about how difficult it is to enter God's Kingdom, the disciples begin to wonder what that means for them. They've already sacrificed so much to follow Him. Peter voices the question everyone's thinking - "What about us?

Read Mark 10:28-31

• What do you think Jesus is trying to communicate about what it costs to be a part of the Kingdom of God?

The conversation about money and God's Kingdom begins and ends with one thing ... TRUST.

The story of the rich young ruler reminds us that the issue isn't really about wealth - it's about whether we believe God is truly enough. Following Jesus means trusting Him completely, and real trust is proven through surrender. It's easy to say we trust God until He asks us to release something we love or depend on. That's when faith becomes real, when we loosen our grip and let Him lead.

Jesus doesn't ask for part of our lives; He asks for all of it. When we place our finances, time, and priorities in His hands, we don't lose control - we find freedom and purpose in the One who can do more with them than we ever could.

CHALLENGE: A THOUSAND HILLS

"For every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills." - **Psalm 50:10**

Everything in creation belongs to God - every hill, every resource, every moment. And that includes our lives. This week, take some time to recognize what's already His. Create a new note on your phone (or grab a piece of paper) and title it "A Thousand Hills." Throughout the week, list out all the "hills" in your life - the areas that should belong fully to God. These might include: Your finances, relationships, time and schedule, your career or goals, your possessions, your habits or hidden struggles, your dreams for the future. Each time something comes to mind, add it to your list, and consider if you are willing to trust Him with it.