Money Talks

Week 3 Discussion Guide

Icebreaker

Are you a planner, a spontaneous spender, or somewhere in between?

Read

Take turns reading Matthew 25:14-29. (Optional: Have your group read the passage in two different versions. Then have the group retell the passage in their own words.)

Discuss

In this parable, the servants were entrusted with something that didn't belong to them. The same is true for us. It's easy to think of our money and possessions as our own, but Scripture reminds us that everything we have ultimately belongs to God. We aren't owners. We're managers responsible for how we use what He's given us.

- **In this parable, what stands out to you about the fact that the master entrusted his servants with his wealth? What responsibility came with that?**
- **How does viewing yourself as a manager rather than an owner change the way you think about your money and possessions?**
- **Why do you think it's so easy to treat our money as something that belongs entirely to us? What makes that mindset difficult to let go of?**

The servants received different amounts, but the master's expectation was the same: be faithful with what you've been given. The master was concerned with what the servants did with the money. God doesn't ask us to compare our circumstances with someone else's. He asks us to faithfully manage what He's placed in our hands.

- **What are some practical ways we can be faithful stewards of what God has given us beyond simply giving money to the church?**
- **Read 1 Corinthians 4:2. Why do you think faithfulness is such an important quality in someone who has been entrusted with something? How might that apply to the way we manage our finances?**

How we manage our money reveals a lot about our priorities and where we place our trust. It's one thing to say that everything belongs to God, but it's another thing to actually live that way. Tracking our spending is an act of accountailioty before God.

- **Statistics suggest 75-85% of people have a budget, but only 20% actually follow it. Why do you think there is such a gap between intention and action?**
- **How have you seen God work or multiply resources when people practice faithful stewardship?**

Application

End your time with a personal challenege and encourage each person to do the following:

- **<u>Evaluate:</u> Take an honest look at where your money is currently going. Does your spending reflect your priorities?**
- **<u>Identify:</u> What is one area you could steward better? Maybe it's spending less, saving more, giving more generously, or being more intentional.**
- **<u>Act:</u> Make one tangible change this week that reflects a willingness to manage God's resources rather than simply spend your own.**

Prayer

Spend time in prayer asking God to help you see your money and possessions as things He has entrusted to you. Ask Him to reveal areas where you may be holding too tightly and help you to become a faithful steward of all He has given you.