



STILL GOD'S

Still God's Series

Small Group Material

Participant Guide

Part 1- "What Does Money Do?"

February 4th, 2018

Bottom Line: *Radical generosity must be rooted in deep contentment.*

Study Verses: *Deuteronomy 8:16-18, Matthew 13:22, Matthew 6:19-24, 1 Timothy 6:6-10*

Key Points

- *God's intention is to be our provision.*
- *We receive His provision in accordance with His vision.*
- *Money can be either good or bad depending on our dependence on it.*
- *Wealth can be a blessing or a curse. It can serve as a distraction or utilized to build and contribute.*
- *Financial stewardship is a spiritual discipline.*
- *Your treasure will determine your allegiance.*
- *We have the power to tell our hearts where to go. We incline our hearts in the direction of the Kingdom by giving something.*
- *Money provides the illusion of power and freedom independent from God.*
- *We have a relationship with money that influences and affects our relationship with God.*
- *Generosity is a way of seeing.*

ENCOUNTER

"I feel pulled in opposite directions over the money issue. Sometimes I want to sell all that I own, join a Christian commune, and live out my days in intentional poverty. At other times, I want to rid myself of guilt and enjoy the fruit of our nation's prosperity. Mostly, I wish I did not have to think about money at all." -Philip Yancey

- **Read the quote from Philip Yancey. Over the years, what has been your relationship with money (guilt, fear, shame, discontentment, a tool for generosity, etc.)?**
- **Would you say you have convictions when it comes to your view on finances? If so, what are they and how did you develop them? If not, how does the lack of convictions influence the way you approach your finances?**
- **If you don't pay attention to your finances, it will cost you your heart. Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?**

FORMATION

- **Read Deuteronomy 6:16-18. What did God want the Israelites (and us) to understand about the source of their provision?**
- **Read Matthew 13:22. What makes wealth deceptive? In what ways do riches have the power to choke out God's Word and the work He is doing in our hearts?**
- **Read 1 Timothy 6:6-10. What connection does learning to live contently have on our desire to display generous hearts?**

EXPRESSION

"The idealization of poverty is one of the most dangerous illusions of Christians. Stewardship, which requires possessions and includes giving, is the true spiritual discipline in relation to wealth." -Dallas Willard

- **Read the quote from Dallas Willard. What are some steps you can take to being a good steward with the resources you've been entrusted with?**
- **Read Matthew 6:19-24. What would you say is the desire of your heart when it comes to money? What does this say about where your treasure is going?**
- **Money can cause us to commit idolatry (seeing \$ as a source) or covetousness (see \$ as a scorecard for comparison). Of the two, which one do you struggle with the most and why?**
- **If our approach to money serves as a revealer of the heart, how would you describe the current state of your heart?**