<u>It's Deeper Than That – Week 7 Small Group Questions</u>

Opening Prayer

Ice Breaker

1. Jeff opened with the story of a man caught at the Canadian border with 51 protected turtles hidden in his sweatpants, hoping to sell them for around $40,000. What's the craziest thing you've ever done for money? (Keep it group-appropriate!)
2. What was your very first paying job, and what's the first thing you remember buying with your own money?

Discuss

Main Scriptures: Matthew 6:19-34

1. Jeff said the craziest thing he's ever done for money is not trust God and what His Word says about money, out of fear he wouldn't have enough if he did it God's way. Where do you most feel that same temptation?
2. Read 1 Timothy 6:10. People often misquote this as "money is the root of all evil." Why does it matter that Paul says the *love* of money, and what are some warning signs that money is shifting from a tool to a love?
3. Jeff pointed out that roughly 1 in 6 verses in Matthew, Mark, and Luke touch on money or possessions, and that about a quarter of the Sermon on the Mount deals with money, possessions, generosity, or material anxiety. Why do you think Jesus talked about money so often?
4. Read Malachi 3:8–10, Proverbs 3:9, and 2 Corinthians 9:6–8. Jeff described the tithe as the *first* 10% of what God blesses us with, given back through His Church. Christians hold different convictions about whether the tithe is a command, a starting benchmark, or a principle of generosity, but Scripture consistently calls God's people to give Him their *first* and their *best*. What's the difference between giving God your first portion and giving Him whatever's left over at the end of the month?
5. Read Matthew 6:22–24. The word for a "healthy" eye can mean single or undivided, while "unhealthy" means divided. What pulls your focus away from God and toward wanting more?
6. Read Matthew 6:25–30. Rich Villodas said, *"To feel worry and anxiety are normal parts of being human; however, to feed worry and anxiety leads to bondage."* What's the difference between feeling financial worry and feeding it, and what tends to feed yours?
7. Jeff asked, "Where might I need to change my standard of living so I can seek God first in His standard of giving?" What's one area — debt, a budget, living below your means — where God might be nudging you right now?

Practice

1. The next time you notice yourself worrying about money this week, stop and pray through Matthew 6:31–33 instead of "feeding" the worry.
2. Identify one change to your standard of living — a subscription, an eating-out habit, a purchase you've been planning — that could free up money to give. Make the change this week.