

Small Group Guide: Overflow Series - "The Good News About Money"

Opening Prayer & Icebreaker

Icebreaker Question: "Out of all your years in school, what's one lesson or class that you still remember and why?"

Sermon Summary

Pastor Scott discussed how Jesus spoke extensively about money—not because the church wants something *from* us, but because Jesus knows how money can become an idol that controls us. The core message: Life does not consist in the abundance of possessions. Jesus, who owns everything, became poor so we could become rich spiritually. The good news isn't "give to get," but rather, having received God's generosity, we are now free to give.

Key Scripture References

- **Luke 12:13-15** - Warning against greed
 - **Colossians 1:16** - Jesus created and owns everything
 - **John 3:16** - God's ultimate gift
 - **James 5:1-6** - Warning to those who worship money
 - **2 Corinthians 8:9** - Jesus became poor so we could be rich
 - **Acts 20:35** - More blessed to give than receive
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Discussion Questions

Understanding the Message

1. Pastor Scott mentioned that he experienced a teacher put up a slide showing hope, justice, family, friendship, etc., and said they were all more important than money. Why do you think people tend to forget this truth in pursuit of wealth?

2. Jesus said, "Life does not consist in an abundance of possessions" (Luke 12:15). How does our culture contradict this message? What examples do you see?
3. What does it mean that "you cannot serve both God and money"? How can you tell when money has become a god in someone's life (or your own)?

Going Deeper

4. The parable of the rich fool (Luke 12:16-21) shows a man who was "rich materially, poor spiritually." What are the warning signs that someone might be heading in this direction?
5. James warns that wealth can lead to using people rather than loving them. Have you ever witnessed or experienced a relationship damaged by money? What happened?
6. The pastor said, "The gospel doesn't start with you giving; it starts with how much you've been given." How does this perspective change the way we think about generosity?

Personal Reflection

7. On a scale of 1-10, how anxious are you about money right now? What specifically causes that anxiety?
 8. Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). Have you experienced this truth personally? Share a time when giving brought you unexpected joy.
 9. Pastor Scott mentioned that the only thing you'll take out of this life is what you give away. What legacy do you want to leave when it comes to generosity?
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Key Takeaways

1. **Jesus knows about abundance** - He created everything and owns everything, so He's qualified to teach us about money.
 2. **Money makes a terrible god** - It cannot provide security, love, or lasting happiness. Only Jesus can.
 3. **People matter more than possessions** - We should never sacrifice relationships on the altar of financial gain.
 4. **We've already been made rich** - In Christ, we have redemption, eternal life, and every spiritual blessing.
 5. **Giving is freedom, not obligation** - Because we've received so much, we're free to be generous.
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Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge

Choose one of the following to practice this week:

Option 1: Gratitude Inventory

- Make a list of everything God has given you (spiritual blessings, relationships, material provisions)
- Spend time in prayer thanking God specifically for each item
- Share your list with the group next week

Option 2: Generosity Experiment

- Look for one unexpected opportunity to be generous this week
- It could be financial, but it could also be your time, skills, or resources
- Notice how it makes you feel and be ready to share

Option 3: Financial Reflection

- Review your spending from the last month
- Ask yourself: "What do my purchases reveal about what I truly value?"
- Identify one area where you could redirect resources toward eternal impact

Option 4: Relationship Repair

- If money has damaged a relationship in your life, take one step toward healing this week
- This might be an apology, a difficult conversation, or seeking forgiveness

Action Steps for the Group

1. **Pray for each other** regarding specific financial anxieties or challenges
2. **Accountability partners:** Pair up to check in on your chosen practical application
3. **Serve together:** Plan a group activity to serve the poor or support the church's mission
4. **Study further:** Read and discuss 1 Timothy 6:6-19 together about contentment and generosity

Closing Reflection

Read together: "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich." (2 Corinthians 8:9)

Reflection Question: How does remembering what Jesus gave up for you change your perspective on what you have and what you can give?

Closing Prayer

Pray together, focusing on:

- Gratitude for God's lavish generosity toward us
 - Freedom from anxiety about money
 - Wisdom to use resources for eternal impact
 - Hearts that value people over possessions
 - Opportunities to be generous this week
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Looking Ahead

Next week, we'll continue the "Overflow" series. Come prepared to share how your practical application went and what God taught you about generosity this week.