God’s Wisdom for Finances

Bulletin Outline

1. Wise stewardship begins with gratitude and trust.
    a. Desire God’s wisdom more.
    b. Remember that wealth is temporary.
    c. Cultivate generosity.
    d. Understand that wealth alone can’t reveal a person’s heart.

2. Wise stewardship takes care and diligence.
    a. Pay attention to what you have.
    b. Work hard and rest well.
    c. Avoid excuses.
    d. Work and save today to plan for the future.
    e. Avoid debt if at all possible.

Small Group Discussion Questions:

(Choose 1 or 2 from each category.)

Icebreaker:

1. Adam confessed to accidentally buying a motorcycle. Without judgment, what’s the strangest purchase in your history, and what’s the story behind it?
2. In the opening story, the man refuses two boats and a helicopter while waiting for God to rescue him. What's the most stubborn "I've got this" moment you've had, where you refused help you clearly needed?

Gospel:

1. A steward carries out the owner's wishes, not their own preferences. Where in your life right now is it hardest to submit your plans for your money or time to what you believe God actually wants?
2. Proverbs 16:16 says wisdom is better than gold or silver. What does it reveal about the character of God that He values wisdom so highly, and yet also offers it freely to those who ask (James 1:5)?
3. The sermon argues that contentment isn't about what you have, but about gratitude and trust. How does Paul's testimony in Philippians 4:12-13 show us that contentment is a learned discipline rather than a natural personality trait?
4. The sermon states that money "reflects where we are, and it can also change our hearts." How can something as ordinary as money function as both a diagnostic tool and a sanctifying tool in the Christian life?

Community:

1. Proverbs 11:14 says there is safety "in an abundance of counselors." Who do you currently allow into your financial decisions, and how has (or hasn't) that kind of openness been part of your closest relationships?
2. Hebrews 13:16 links doing good and sharing with others to sacrifices pleasing to God. What is one tangible way our group could practice shared generosity together, rather than each of us giving in isolation?
3. The sermon notes that we can't diagnose someone's spiritual health by their income. How does this truth guard us against both pride (if we're doing well financially) and shame (if we're struggling) within our church relationships?
4. The sermon describes giving to your local church as a priority, since "the Church is God's people" and His primary vehicle for working in the world. How does understanding the church this way change the way you think about your giving, not just as a transaction, but as an act of belonging?

Mission:

1. The sermon says money is "a tool for living so we can honor God," not for our own comfort or luxury. How might reframing your finances as tools for mission change your spending and saving decisions this year?
2. The sermon notes that hard work and diligence can increase our "capacity to give." How does viewing your job or career as a means of funding kingdom generosity change the way you think about your daily work?
3. The sermon warns against greed ("earn more, accumulate more") and jealousy ("someone else has what I deserve") as two competing cultural voices. How do both of these postures ultimately turn us inward, away from mission?
4. The sermon warns that consumer debt "crowds out our giving." How might unexamined spending habits be quietly limiting your capacity to serve or give generously toward gospel mission?