

## FIRST AND BEST

First Things First

May 31, 2026



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### TIP FOR A GREAT GROUP DISCUSSION

Money conversations can create discomfort, defensiveness, or even shame. Keep the tone focused on **trust, not transactions**. This discussion isn't ultimately about budgets, percentages, or church giving. It's about the deeper question Jesus is asking:

#### *What do we trust most?*

Create space for honest conversation. Some people may be brand new to generosity, while others have practiced it for years. The goal is not comparison—it's obedience.

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### ICEBREAKER

- What's something you always make sure gets your attention first when you start your day?

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### OPENING QUESTION

Before we dive in:

- What stood out to you, challenged, or encouraged you the most from Sunday's message?

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### OPENING PRAYER

Father, thank You for providing for us and caring about every area of our lives, including our finances. Help us have honest conversations tonight. Show us where our trust is rooted and teach us what it means to put You first. Amen.

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### MESSAGE SUMMARY

Money has a unique way of revealing what we trust. We may say God is first, but our priorities often reveal a different story. Jesus teaches that where our treasure is, our hearts will follow. Money isn't just a financial tool—it's a spiritual one. In Matthew 6, Jesus connects treasure, trust, and worry.

He reminds us:

- We cannot serve both God and money.
- Money makes promises it cannot keep.
- Worry is not solved by having more.
- Trust is practiced through priority.

That's why Jesus says: "**Seek first the Kingdom of God...**" Putting God first isn't about making Him richer. It's about freeing our hearts from lesser masters and learning to trust Him more deeply.

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## KEY SCRIPTURES

- Matthew 6:19–21
  - Matthew 6:24
  - Matthew 6:33
  - Proverbs 3:9–10
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## KEY TAKEAWAYS & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**1. What goes first gets our trust.** Order reveals priorities.

### Discussion Questions:

- Where do you see this principle playing out in everyday life?
  - What are some things that regularly compete for first place in our lives?
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**2. Money reveals what we trust.** Jesus talked about money often because it touches our hearts.

### Discussion Questions:

- Why do you think money creates such strong emotions?
  - In what ways can money create the illusion of security or control?
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**3. Worry and trust are connected.** Jesus moves from talking about money directly into talking about worry.

### Discussion Questions:

- What financial worries or fears are common in our culture today?
  - Why do you think Jesus points people toward trust instead of simply offering financial solutions?
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**4. Generosity is a formation practice.** Giving trains our hearts to trust God.

### Discussion Questions:

- Have you ever experienced generosity changing your perspective or your trust in God?
- Why does putting God first often feel risky?

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## GROUP APPLICATION

Take a quiet moment and reflect:

**"If someone looked at my priorities, what would they say comes first in my life?"**

Then share (at your comfort level):

- "One area where I need to trust God more is \_\_\_\_\_."
- "One step I feel God inviting me to take is \_\_\_\_\_."

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## Examples of Next Steps

- Creating a plan for generosity
- Beginning to give consistently
- Moving from spontaneous giving to intentional giving
- Having a conversation about finances with your spouse
- Praying regularly about financial decisions
- Trusting God with an area of financial anxiety
- Taking a step toward tithing

***Focus on the next step, not the final destination.***

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## GROUP ACCOUNTABILITY

This week, ask yourself:

**"What did my financial decisions reveal about my trust?"**

Next time you gather, share:

- One area where you saw fear show up
- One area where you chose trust
- One thing God taught you through it

### Reminder:

Generosity isn't primarily about what leaves your hands. It's about what happens in your heart.

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## CLOSING PRAYER

Father, thank You for being trustworthy. Help us put You first not just in theory, but in practice. Teach us to trust You more deeply than we trust our money, our plans, or our sense of control. Shape our hearts through obedience and help us honor You with our first and best. Amen.