

**Ice Breaker
Question:**

If you were given one million dollars that you could not keep, but had to give away, what would you do with it?

Instructions:

Read the following passage out loud in your group and then take a few minutes to jot down any observations, applications or questions.

Matthew 6:19-24 (NIV)

19 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. **20** But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. **21** For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. **22** "The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. **23** But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness! **24** "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money."

SCRIPTURE | OBSERVATION | APPLICATION | PRAYER

The Greek word used here for "good" can also be translated as "single" or "simple." The idea here is of a single-minded devotion. When your eyes are looking to God and seeking His purposes (i.e. storing up treasures in heaven) your body will be full of light. The reverse is also true, however. If your eye is "bad", ("diseased" in Greek), you are not trusting God and seeking His purposes with your money, and your body will be full of darkness.



- What applications, observations, or questions do you have from this verse?
- How do you store up treasure in heaven?

Play Video – Week 5 - Small Group Video – (19 min.)

- What teaching point from the video resonated with you?
- Why do you think money is an area that so frequently causes people trouble in life and relationships?
- What do you think of Andy's definition of greed: "The assumption that it's all for my consumption?"
- Do you agree or disagree that your biggest competitor for your trust is your stuff? Why?
- Why are we as people so prone to trust money rather than God?
- What is the difference between healthy and unhealthy consuming and hoarding?
- How can giving be a guardrail that can be used to protect yourself from greed?
- What guardrails do you now want to set in place to trust God with your finances?

Final Thoughts:

Jesus spoke about money a lot. He knew that money is easy for us to trust over God. There is security in money. There is safety in having stuff. But God wants our whole heart. He wants to be our CHIEF CONCERN. It is not bad to have things or money, but when those things are our priority there is a problem. When we establish financial guardrails in our lives, we are able to honor God and trust Him with our finances. Where is your devotion? Does God or money rule your life?



Leaders Notes:

- Make a copy of the first two sheets for the members of your group.
- Either have one person read all the passages out loud or go around the circle and have everyone read one verse. Take 3-5 minutes for people to jot down questions, observations, or applications. You may want to have extra pens available.

Sample Answers to Questions:

- What applications, observations, or questions do you have from this verse?
 - Treasure that is stored on earth is temporal, but the treasure that we store in heaven will last forever.
 - We must all make a choice—and that choice is whether we will serve God or money.
- How do you store up treasure in heaven?
 - Being obedient to God's Word.
 - Be a good steward of the money that God has given you—if you are able to help someone in need, why don't you?
- What teaching point from the video resonated with you?
- Why do you think money is an area that so frequently causes people trouble in life and relationships?
 - Money is a powerful force and greed is an easy temptation for people.
 - There is security and power in money.
 - Money can easily become what defines a person—is it easy to become obsessed with how much you have and how much you want to make.
- What do you think of Andy's definition of greed: "The assumption that it's all for my consumption?"
- Do you agree or disagree that your biggest competitor for your trust is your stuff? Why?
- Why are we as people so prone to trust money rather than God?
 - It is not hard to see the positive effects of money. It provides security and stability.
 - Money and the effects of money are all around us. Our culture is in support of doing all you can to make as much as you can.
- What is the difference between healthy and unhealthy consuming and hoarding?
 - Healthy consuming happens when we trust God first with our finances and then trust Him with where we spend our money and where we save.
 - Healthy consuming involved being a good steward of what God has given to you.

[GUARDRAILS]

Guardrails Discussion Questions - Week 5

- Unhealthy consuming and hoarding is GREED. It means that you do not trust God with what He has given to you.
- Unhealthy consuming and hoarding means that you save and consume first and do not trust God with your finances.

- How can giving be a guardrail that can be used to protect yourself from greed?
 - Giving is the physical act of trusting God with your money.
 - Giving says that you are willing to trust God with your money and put others first—even in your finances.

- What guardrails do you now want to set in place to trust God with your finances?