

Welcome to Week 1 of Money Wise!

We all know how tense conversation can get when money comes up. Below are some insights and suggestions for your time in group this week. **Remember, we encourage you to read through this guide and the Sermon Companion in order to choose which questions will best support your group discussion.** Feel free to include other questions from the message or passages that you like that complement what we have provided.

VIDEO TEACHING SEGMENT

The video teaching segment for this week will provide opportunity for a lot of great dialogue. Focus on the following questions from the Sermon Companion if you'd like to explore Cal's teaching more:

- **Have you ever been duped when it comes to money? How did it make you feel?**
- **If God were to give you more money at this point in your life, would that help your relationship with him or hurt it? Explain.**
- **What myths about money have you bought into?**
- **What biblical truths about money do you need to start applying in your life?**

WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO KNOW?

Proverbs 30:7-9 and **Hosea 13:6** are two passages in the Bible that show how deceptive money can be. Our relationship with money has the ability to build our trust in God or steer us away. When we put our faith in the "security" that money brings, we will end up blaming God for our lack or forgetting God in our abundance.

WHAT IS MY INITIAL REACTION?

Use this section to help your group explore the emotional and spiritual nature of money. There is a reason why we tend to get tense when this topic comes up. Money is amoral, but the way that we use it and think about it reveals much about the condition of our heart.

WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?

The four myths that Cal taught on in the weekend message are:

1. All the church wants is my money.
2. The more money I have, the happier I will be.
3. Wealth will provide me with the lasting security I long for.
4. It's my money and I can do with it whatever I want.

It is important that our groups understand *why* God cares about how we handle money. God isn't looking to smite those who don't toe the line. He understands more than we do how the misuse of money can damage our spiritual well-being and our relationship with him. God cares about how we manage money because God cares about us. He wants something for us, not from us.

