



Welcome to Week 3 of Money Wise!

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

In the video this week, Cal talks to us about the concept of *affluenza*. It may be helpful to ask your group if they have been (or are currently) afflicted by this disease-- which Cal describes as "the dogged pursuit for more." This conversation will be a great set up for your discussion in the following section.

WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO KNOW?

Saving and spending money affects everyone in different ways, but there is a universal truth expressed in Ecclesiastes 5 about the fleeting nature of wealth. **Our natural inclination is to acquire more and more wealth because we believe it will make us secure—even if that means going into incredible amounts of debt.** This creates a cycle of buying, worrying, and buying more! The author of Ecclesiastes reminds us of the sobering truth that "you can't take it with you when you die." Although this may cause fear in some of us, it can actually lead us into great freedom! Instead of trying to get more (even when we can't afford it) we can choose instead to enjoy what we have and not be plagued by the burden of pursuing wealth and the ensuing debt that this approach to life brings.

WHAT IS MY INITIAL REACTION?

The first two questions of this section are useful for dialogue with new believers and mature believers alike. Both groups of people will likely provide unique perspectives!

Read Mark 10:23-26. What stands out to you about the response of the disciples?

Does Jesus' statement shock you the way that it shocked the disciples? Why or why not?

The disciples were amazed in this passage because they probably assumed that wealth was a sign of blessing by God. Jesus' teaching made them rethink this idea!

WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?

Having wealth is not sinful, but putting your trust in money and possessions is harmful to our relationship with God and others. When we pursue wealth, we can get tripped up by sins of many kinds. We can also get weighed down by the burden of debt, which will keep us from living freely and generously.

