



## Welcome to Week 5 of Money Wise!

We hope that this series has been challenging and helpful for your life group. **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 explored **John 12:1-8**. Here are some concepts from the teaching that you may want to discuss with your group:

- **Pursuing the American ideal of “being number 1” directly conflicts with the teaching of the Bible. In fact, it hurts our ability to trust God!**
- **Giving indicates our trust in God and a healthy view of our resources.**

### WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO KNOW?

Take a moment at the beginning to discuss some of the lessons learned over the past 5 weeks. Reflecting on what the group has learned will prime everyone for a more in-depth conversation.

**John 12:1-8** can teach us a lot about giving. Mary’s understanding of Jesus is made obvious by the lavish gift that she poured out on him. You can also see how Judas attempts to hide his own sin by acting self-righteous towards Mary.

**The last question in this section might be helpful in groups of mature believers. Selling expensive items to help the poor sounds like a good idea, especially after last week’s lesson. Jesus was saying something more than, “the poor will always be around.” If you want to pursue this concept deeper, ask your group the following “extra” question:**  
***What did Mary see that others did not?***

### WHAT IS MY INITIAL REACTION?

The widow in **Mark 12:41-44** is another example of kingdom giving. Although the widow didn’t give a year’s wages to God, she gave all that she had. Jesus uplifts Mary (in John 12) and the widow as positive examples because He knew the heart behind their giving. By using these women as examples, Jesus shows us that generosity is not validated by the *amount* we give, but by the attitude with which we give. If our hearts are wrong, “large sums” do not honor God. When our hearts are right, any sum (whether two mites or a year’s wages) can further God’s kingdom.

### WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?

**American culture tends to focus on “Me.” When we conform to this aspect of our culture, we end up looking more like Judas and the Pharisees than Mary and the widow. Putting God first helps us to trust him more and place our heart where it is intended to be; not in earthly treasures, but in his care.**

