

Ice Breaker:

**What was your first job or the first time you remember earning money?
How much did you earn?
What was the first thing you bought?**

Groups Discussion Questions:

Luke 16:10-15

10 *“Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. **11** So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? **12** And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else’s property, who will give you property of your own?”*

Eric mentioned the connection to this teaching of Jesus as the parable of the talents. Read also:

Matthew 25:14-30

14 *“For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants^[c] and entrusted to them his property. **15** To one he gave five talents,^[d] to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. **16** He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. **17** So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. **18** But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master’s money. **19** Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. **20** And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.’ **21** His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant.^[e] You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ **22** And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.’ **23** His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ **24** He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, **25** so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.’ **26** But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? **27** Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. **28** So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. **29** For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. **30** And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”*

In considering both of these parables, what are some things that God has entrusted you with?

How have you been faithful with them?

How have you not?

If we read Jesus' words from Matthew 25, is being "too nervous" to act an acceptable excuse?

When has insecurity kept you from dealing with what God has entrusted to you?

Luke 16:13

13 *"No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."*

Does being poor or rich determine whether or not you love money?

How do you know if you love money?

Why can't we serve God and money?

We are motivated by what we love. What motivates you?

We love the things that we submit to. What do you submit to?

Luke 16:14-15

14 *The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this and were sneering at Jesus. 15 He said to them, "You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of others, but God knows your hearts. What people value highly is detestable in God's sight."*

In the message we learned that the phrase "value highly" means to be proud or arrogant. Other than money, what kind of things do we find pride in?

The item isn't detestable, it is the heart attitude about it that God hates. What otherwise good things in your life are detestable in God's sight because of the way you value them?

How does that change your mindset?

Prayer Requests

Digging Deeper:

Read James 1:9-18

9 Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, 10 and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away. 11 For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits.

12 Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. 13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. 14 But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. 15 Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. 17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. 18 Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

What does verse 11 mean?

How can we tell between God's direction and our own pursuits?

Are they ever the same thing?

According to this passage, where do good things come from?

Where does temptation come from?

Can a desire for a good thing become sinful? How?

Read Psalm 37:4

Delight yourself in the Lord,

and he will give you the desires of your heart.

What does it mean to *delight yourself* in the Lord?

What would your heart's desire be, if you delighted in the Lord in that way?

When have you experienced this?