

“Who Cares”

Week 1 – About Money

warm-up

Group Ice Breaker: WHO CARES?

Ask each group member to anonymously write a positive observation about every other group member. Put the observations in a container and pull out each one and read them. Celebrate these qualities.

word & application

Matthew 6:19-34

“Don’t hoard treasure **down here where it gets eaten by moths and corroded by rust or stolen by burglars.** Stockpile treasure **in heaven, where it’s safe** from moth and rust and burglars. It’s obvious, isn’t it? The place where your treasure is, is the place you will most want to be, and end up being. Your eyes are windows into your body. **If you open your eyes wide in wonder and belief, your body fills up with light. If you live squinty-eyed in greed and distrust, your body is a dank cellar.** If you pull the blinds on your windows, what a dark life you will have! You can’t worship two gods at once. Loving one god, you’ll end up hating the other. Adoration of one feeds contempt for the other. You can’t worship God and Money both. If you decide for God, living a life of God-worship, **it follows that you don’t fuss about what’s on the table at mealtimes or whether the clothes in your closet are in fashion.** There is far more to your life than the food you put in your stomach, more to your outer appearance than the clothes you hang on your body. **Look at the birds, free and unfettered, not tied down to a job description, careless in the care of God.** And you count far more to him than birds. Has anyone by fussing in front of the mirror ever gotten taller by so much as an inch? **All this time and money wasted on fashion—do you think it makes that much difference? Instead of looking at the fashions, walk out into the fields and look at the wildflowers...** If God gives such attention to the appearance of wildflowers—most of which are never even seen—don’t you think **he’ll attend to you, take pride in you, do his best for you?** What I’m trying to do here is to get you to relax, to not be so preoccupied with getting, so you can respond to God’s giving. People who don’t know God and the way he works fuss over these things, but you know both God and how he works. Steep your life in God-reality, God-initiative, **God-provisions.** Don’t worry about missing out. You’ll find **all your everyday human concerns will be met.** Give your entire attention to what God is doing right now, and **don’t get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow.** God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes.”

Discussion & Application: Explore these points and questions through in-depth conversation.

Notice some key comparisons and contrasts that Jesus makes about walking in faith vs. self-reliance:

FAITH

Safety
Full of Light
Fuss (stress) Free/Care Free
Freedom
Appreciation for Beauty
God’s Favor, Provision & Help

SELF-RELIANCE

Deterioration and loss
Greed and distrust
Darkness
Weighted down by expectations
Wastefulness
Worry

Discussion Questions:

- How does a life of Faith (trusting and relying on God) differ from one of self-reliance?
- In what areas of our lives are we most challenged with relying upon God?
- What are the core reasons that we tend not to trust God? (dig deep here)
- How can we begin trusting God’s will toward us?

prayer

Share recent “God moments.” Pray over requests. Pray that we can accept God’s desire to care for, provide for, protect and help us. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal times and areas where God is providing.