

Talking through the message during the week helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions, and scriptures are designed to help you take the next step.

- How are you currently experiencing financial stress? How does that stress affect your life?

With your Bible or YouVersion, read 1 Timothy 6:6-10, Proverbs 21:20.

These verses encourage us to not be foolish with money, but to be content with what we have. We are also warned not to be lured by money's temptation.

- Even though we all know better, why do think most of us tend to be foolish with our money and possessions?
- How have you seen the stress caused by lack of financial margin limit your relationship with God and your ability to minister and give to others?

Read Matthew 6:19-21.

Jesus instructs us in this passage to store up treasures in heaven and not on earth.

- Where your money goes, your heart follows. Based on how you spend your money, which types of treasures are you currently storing up?
- What can you do to start putting God first in your life instead of money?

Read Malachi 3:8-10.

God asks us in this passage to test Him so that we can experience the blessings that result from tithing.

- Describe how you have seen tithing build your faith and break the cycle of materialism and consumerism in your life?

Read Proverbs 15:16 and Proverbs 8:18-19.

These scriptures tell us that when we put God first instead of money, we become supernaturally content and we end up with more of what matters.

- How have you found contentment in God? How does it compare to the contentment money and possessions bring?
- In what ways has God blessed you with more of the things that truly matter in life?

NEXT STEPS

Here are some specific things you can do this week to take a step toward living life with the margin God intends for your life.

Go through Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University program. FPU is one of the best programs for learning how to manage your finances in a Biblical way. Learn more at <http://www.daveramsey.com/fpu/home/>. Many FPU LifeGroups have already started meeting or will be starting soon. Check with your campus team for details.

Seek guidance from someone you know who has successfully achieved financial margin in their life. Ask them to show you ways you can better handle your finances in a way that is honoring to God. Open up and really let them into your spending and budgeting habits.

Use these prayer tips to guide your time with God this week to expand your conversations both in person and online:

- Lift up to God the financial stress you have in life. Seek His guidance in overcoming it.
- Commit to God that you will place Him first instead of money in your life.
- Thank God for all of the many blessings He has given you. Praise Him during this time.
- Seek God's contentment for your life. Pray that He will become your only source for contentment.
- Ask God to continue to bless you with the things that matter most in life.