



THE WIN

The group member will wrestle with his/her own concerns of God's financial provision in their life and demonstrate understanding of God's faithfulness by charting God's previous/current provisions and reflecting on His faithfulness.

3
minutes

SERMON RECAP: WHAT DID THE TEXT MEAN? WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

SAY THIS:

In the message this week we learned the goal in personal finance is generosity. However, in order to be successfully generous we must have a plan. As we understand the grace God has given us we find contentment in His generosity. Then as contentment nourishes our soul we are moved to compassion for others just as Jesus had compassion. Generosity is our goal and it takes work to make it happen.

3-5
minutes

WARM UP

Leader Tip: Throughout this session you have been provided blocks of content to 'say.' Our desire is for you to make these your own words. Try to avoid reading it directly from the page. Instead, use your own personality and style in reading aloud to your group.

SAY THIS:

The topic of finances can be a sensitive subject for people. Many times people associate money with how their parents modeled the use of money. Some parents may have argued or even fought over money. Other parents may have never discussed it in front of their children. Because we live in a world where things cost money, we can easily become obsessed with it to the point of our destruction. But where is God in this conversation? Does he play a role in our pursuit to survive financially in our world? Understanding God's role in providing for his highest creation is essential.

ASK THIS:

- How did your parents handle money? Did they fight about it, keep it quiet, work together?

35-40
minutes

THE TEXT: WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR ME?

HAVE SOMEONE READ:

Matthew 6:25-34

SAY THIS:

Jesus' words were counter-cultural to 1st Century ears. In the 1st Century there was no Target or Best Buy. Families could not go home and adjust the thermostat if it were too cold or too hot. They didn't have iPhones to order pizza, purchase movie tickets, or reserve a table at the town pub. 1st Century families had to think carefully and fully to provide materially for their family. Yet Jesus is saying 'Don't worry about that stuff!' Focus on being more righteous.

ASK THIS:

- What emotion comes to mind as you read and hear Jesus' teaching in this passage?
- What does your initial emotion reveal about your faith in God's provision for you?
- Imagine you were in the audience in Matthew 6 and had just heard Jesus teach this passage. What does this teaching reveal to you about God and His concern for you?

Leader Tip: These questions are meant to draw out the emotions of your group members. Remember; facilitate this section delicately because you may not know what is lurking beneath the surface for each person. Also, rely on the Spirit to lead you to know when to press for an answer or back off and move on. Don't forget to include affirming responses after each group members has answered. Acknowledge them and thank them for sharing.

SAY THIS:

In our passage Jesus uses birds and flowers as examples of God's provision for creation. Let's watch this 4-minute video that I think demonstrates the creativeness of our God in providing for His creation.

WATCH THIS:

<https://youtu.be/2P7sLWqmK3w>

ASK THIS:

- Which animal do you find most impressive? Why?
- Isn't it amazing how these animals have adapted to their environments? God is supremely creative. How does seeing the intricate details these animals possess in order to defend themselves influence your belief that God cares for you even more than these animals?

SAY THIS:

It's easy for us to acknowledge that God provides for us on a regular basis. It's also not a difficult leap for us to believe God cares for us more than animals. But I wonder how we might be challenged if we were to write out how God has provided for us.

We often think of God's provision as just material. However, in our passage Jesus teaches that we are to focus on becoming more like Him and pursue the things of the Kingdom.

DO THIS ACTIVITY:

- 1) Have each group member use a sheet of paper and draw 4 columns. Write these words at the top of each column: **Spiritual**, **Emotional**, **Social**, **Mental** (one word for each column).
- 2) Instruct group members to write 5-6 provisions God has given them in each column (i.e. 5-6 spiritual provisions, 5-6 emotional provisions, 5-6 social provisions, 5-6 mental provisions).
- 3) Spend 10 or so minutes having group members (if they are willing) share their chart with the group.

Leader Tip: Make sure you have extra paper and pens, to save time you might go ahead and draw the columns on the paper with the headings. This is a reflective activity. We are at the point in the lesson where group

members should be making intellectual and emotional connections with the passage. The train of thought looks like this: Jesus says God will provide for me>Look at the ways God has already provided for me>God can be trusted>I should listen to Jesus and pursue Kingdom priorities. Watch the body language and facial expressions during the sharing time. Be sensitive to the Spirit and know when to probe deeper and when to back off.

ASK THIS:

- As you reflect on your chart and can now visibly see all the different ways God has/is providing for you, what thoughts are you having right now?
- How does the truth of your chart inform your understanding of Jesus' teaching in Matthew 6? Does this excite you? Discourage you? If so, how can we encourage you?

SAY THIS:

In light of Jesus' teaching, we are all faced with a question; WILL WE TRUST GOD AND PURSUE HIM?

We know that the goal of personal finance is not to store up treasure that we cannot take with us but to be generous. Matthew 6:25-34 instructs us to not even focus on treasure, instead we are to focus on growing in Christlikeness and let God continue to provide for us.

WILL WE RUN AFTER JESUS AND TRUST THAT HE WILL TAKE CARE OF US?

CLOSE YOUR TIME BY WATCHING THIS:

<https://youtu.be/cvkJ6069uk8> (Francis Chan)

3-5
minutes



Spend the next 10 minutes going around the group completing this sentence: (choose 1 or 2)

- Is everything in my budget a need? Yes or No
- If my budget fell apart my life would fall apart. True or False? Why?
- Money is a priority for my family but chasing Jesus is everything. True or False?

3-5
minutes



If we are to pursue Jesus and not spend our lives consumed with money, we must be intentional about our pursuit. Watch this clip by John Piper as he encourages us to focus solely on Jesus and the Kingdom.

<https://youtu.be/0elhYaESJKY>