

# FOURISH Generosity & Stevardship



# Generosity & Stewardship

We serve a generous God and he asks us to be generous, but how can we do this effectively? This session looks at how we can steward our finances wisely and be more effective in our giving.

### WHAT CAN I DO WITH MONEY?

God doesn't just want me to give well; He wants to me to spend well, save well, and invest wisely - it's the whole package.





#### **HOW JESUS TAUGHT ABOUT MONEY**

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

- Matthew 6:19-21

### **JESUS TAUGHT...**

A legitimate use of money is to invest in God's work through the institutions God has established (Matthew 23:23; Mark 12:41-44; Luke 8:1-3).

We ought to pay our taxes (Matthew 17:24-27; 22:17-22).

We should use our financial resources to help the poor and needy through benevolence (Luke 10:29-37; 18:18-25) and missions/ministry support (Luke 8:1-3; 10:1-9).

We should use our material possessions to meet essential family needs (Matthew 7:7-12; Mark 7:9-13).

We should exercise careful management and shrewd wisdom prior to making any purchase (Luke 14:28-30).

It is appropriate to invest our resources for long-term gain and/or financial stability (Matthew 25:14-30; Luke 16:1-13) and farming (Matthew 13:8, 23; John 4:34-38).

We should not depend upon our resources, but upon God, as the source of our supply, trusting Him to meet our essential family needs (Matthew 6:9-13, 19-34; Luke 12:22-34).

Jesus taught that, since we are merely stewards, we should invest ourselves into the lives of others, not hoard our resources to ourselves (Matthew 25:34-40; Luke 6:30-38; 10:25-37; 12:15-21).

We should not use the power of money to lord it over others, either through arrogance or coercion (Matthew 18:23-34; Luke 7:40-43; 20:9-16).



## SOME INITIAL THOUGHTS AS WE BEGIN TO THINK ABOUT MONEY:



Stewarding our money is a much bigger issue than we might think - whether or not we are 'well off'.



We don't talk to one another about money enough.



What we do with money tells us and the people around us what we really make of God.



Jesus calls us not just to be generous but to steward well (though generosity is probably our biggest challenge).



Generosity is a relational issue.



None of us, on our deathbed, will say, "I gave away to much cash."

### DISCUSS



How comfortable are you about discussing money (not only giving) with others?



How do you feel about your finances? Content? Stressed? Excited? Guilty? Clueless? Hopeful? Scared?



Would you call yourself a "saver" or a "spender"?

"The world asks, 'What does a man own?' Christ asks, 'How does he use it?'"

- Andrew Murray

# **PLANNING A BUDGET**

"Wise planning will watch over you. Understanding will keep you safe." - Proverbs 2:11

To be generous it helps to know how our finances are doing. One way is to use a budget planner.

### **BUDGET-PLANNING TIPS**

- Keep track of what you have in the bank and when regular payments are.
- Make a note of any irregular spending.
- Pay by cash rather than card so you're more aware of what you're spending.
- Plan to pay off cards each month.
- Plan for surprises.
- Plan ahead for Christmas, birthdays, holidays, paying car insurance etc.
- Look after trivial spending e.g. coffees, magazines, snacks.

# DISCUSS

- Are you a planned giver, a spontaneous giver, or both?
- Are you intentional about your giving?



In what ways do you struggle with generosity?



How does your upbringing impact on how you see giving?



How can you support, encourage and challenge one another on a regular basis?



#### REFLECT



When was the last time you stopped yourself being generous because it was too risky?





How do you give generously when you can't manage on your income?

#### **RECOMMENDED RESOURCES**

#### stewardship.org.uk/resources/your-money-and-your-life

Especially the 'Beyond Jordan', 'Painting by numbers' and 'Taking care of the pennies' sections.

#### **Christians Against Poverty (CAP)**

We regularly run CAP courses at Maybridge, and there are also helpful resources at capuk.org