

TAKEAWAY

HEALTHY HOUSEHOLDS



Part One: Stewarding Money

At Maybridge we want to be a church of disciples who make disciples – we hope this takeaway session encourages practical outcomes in the lives of the individuals in your group. The focus of group discussion should be on becoming ‘doers of the word’ and not just hearers or people who enjoy a good discussion!

DESIRED OUTCOMES

You don't necessarily need to share these, but be aware as a leader to help steer discussion.

- To see God is interested in Stewarding all our resources, not just the amount we ‘tithe’
- To share and explore practical ways to take responsibility for our money and steward our finances.

As always, there are more questions and prompts than you'll have time for, so feel free to use what is helpful for your group as time allows and discussion flows.

INTRODUCTION

We believe that Jesus is God who came to earth, who died and rose again to reconcile us all to God – and because Jesus is God, it's worth listening to what he says about how to live. In this series we're going to think practically about what following him looks like in different key areas of life. We've called this series ‘Healthy household’ because the church is a family – God's people, each bringing their own gifts to support one another and work out what following and building our habits around Jesus looks like together. In this session we begin thinking about Stewarding Money.

SHARE

- If you won a million pounds tomorrow, what would you actually do with it? How would this reflect your values or priorities?
- On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your money management skills, and why?
- Think about a time when money caused stress, anxiety, or conflict in your life. How did you respond?

READ

Luke 16:1-13

DISCUSS

In the parable of the dishonest manager, what lessons can we take about being shrewd with money without being dishonest?

How does the idea of using money to strengthen relationships (verse 8) change your perspective on spending or generosity?

Think about the ways money can control us (over-spending, hoarding, jealousy, avoidance, etc.), which areas resonate most with you?

Do you currently have a plan for your money (budget, saving, giving, investing)? If not, what could your first step be?

How might depending on God practically change the way you spend, save, or give money?

EXPLAIN

At the time that Jesus taught on Money (and he spoke more about money than he did about sex, heaven, and hell), there were two main ways of thinking about money... Greeks had a ‘non-ownership’ view of money. Philosophers like Plato had a utopian vision for society where rulers owned nothing and resources belonged to society as a whole. We see echoes of this in Marxism more recently.

The Roman cultural view of money was of ‘ownership’ – you had authority over your property and complete control of your money and resources. This is closer to today's attitude and societal thinking around money.

The biblical view of money though, is of stewardship – God is the owner and we are the ‘manager’ of his resources. God is not interested in us simply giving an amount of our money to good causes, the church or others. He wants us to stewardward 100% of our finances, making intelligent decisions in light of understanding that everything we have is his.

What do you think Jesus meant when He said, “You cannot serve both God and money”? How does this apply today?

Jesus is essentially saying – you trust in me or you trust in money? Why would you choose to worship Jesus over money?

The thing we believe/trust in often end up demanding more from us. What are some of the things that money promises?

Why is it wise to serve God, rather than money?

In 2025, *Christians Against Poverty* reported that a quarter of clients waited more than three years before seeking help, and almost two-thirds waited more than a year. How can we create a church and small group environment that is open about sharing financial worries and supporting one another in the area of money?

PRAY

Pray for one another, according to any needs that have come up in the discussion and for God's help in stewarding all that he has given us.

TRY OUT

- Spend time building a picture of what you've been given to use – work on understanding how you spend and use your money – use the budget tool in our 'God, church & giving' leaflet at maybridge.org.uk/resources or download the budget tool here: maybridge.org.uk/app/uploads/2026/02/MCC-Budget-Tool.pdf.
- Track or log everything you spend money on this week. Reflect at the end on your spending habits, sharing them with a trusted friend. Do your findings suggest anything about how you treat money... over-spending, showing off, hoarding, fraud, freeloading, gambling...? Are these outward signs that suggest money has a hold on you? Reflect and discuss any changes you'd like to make.