

Study Guide



Session 1 - The Treasure of Giving November 19, 2017

Welcome (40 Minutes)

Be intentional to have authentic relationships...

Worship (5 Minutes)

As the group transitions from of a time of fellowship to a time of intentional study of the word, it is important to facilitate that transition with a time of worship. This can look like praying together, singing songs together, or rejoicing in what the Lord has done throughout the week.

Word (45 Minutes)

Jesus told a story about a hidden treasure that, once discovered, brought life-changing joy. In the video series *The Treasure Principle*, Randy Alcorn unearths a simple yet profound principle that will radically change your concept of stewardship. Alcorn illuminates the liberating joy of giving and its impact, not only for today but for eternity as well. In Community Group we are asking you to watch *The Treasure Principle* video series on RightNow Media and discuss biblical stewardship and the questions below. We desire for every Community Group to develop a plan of prayer/fasting extending from Nov. 12, 2017 - Feb. 11, 2018. During your time of prayer/fasting please ask the Lord to (a) show you how much he would have you contribute toward the funds needed, (b) convince 100% of covenant members to give to the gospel ministries budget of NFCC, and (c) provide the amount we need for expansion toward our vision.

Action Step

We desire for every Community Group to develop a plan of prayer/fasting extending from Nov. 12, 2017 - Feb. 11, 2018.

Calendar

December 3rd— Family Christmas Program (10:30am service only)

December 17th— Ordination Service

December 24th— Christmas Service

Welcome (40 Minutes)

As you fellowship with one another, please be intentional about sharing what the Lord is doing in your lives. Get to know one another and encourage one another. Are your conversations pointing one another toward Christ?

Worship (5 Minutes)

If you are looking for a song to sing this week, here are the lyrics to "[Blessed Assurance](#)":

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine
O what a foretaste of glory divine
Heir of salvation, purchase of God
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood

Perfect submission, all is at rest
I in my Savior am happy and blessed
Watching and waiting, looking above
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love

This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long

This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long

Oh what a Savior, wonderful Jesus

Death could not hold You, You are victorious
Praise to the risen King

Death could not hold You, You are victorious
Praise to the risen King

Oh what a Savior, wonderful Jesus
Oh what a Savior

Wonderful Savior

Discussion - Read Matthew 6:19-21

1. Read Matthew 6:19-21 and watch video #1—The Treasure of Giving
2. Does Jesus say in these verses that treasures are evil? Does he say that laying up treasures is wrong per se? What is his point about laying up treasures on earth compared to laying up treasures in heaven?
3. What has Jesus' statement meant in your personal life? How have you applied the admonishment to store up treasure in heaven? What does that look like? What are some specific ways that you think qualify as storing up treasures in heaven?
4. If God genuinely wants you to store up treasures, how does that change the way you look at your pursuit of satisfaction? Is God against you, or for you? Why?
5. Justin's story highlights the value of the treasure principle: when we focus our resources (in Justin's case, his money) on eternal things, God can and will provide for the here-and-now. What often prevents us from trusting God with our financial resources? Why?
6. What would your life look like if you invested your finances in the future hope of eternity, rather than solely on the present? What would change?
7. Read Matthew 19:16-30. How would you describe the faith of the rich young ruler? What did he want? How did he go after his desire?
8. Was the rich young ruler correct in his assessment that he had kept those commandments from his youth?
9. How did Jesus say he could have treasure in heaven?

10. How did the rich man view eternity compared to his life on earth as demonstrated by his decision regarding his riches?

11. If you were to look at your credit card statement or your bank account, what would it say about where your treasures are located?

12. Does Jesus say in this passage that keeping the law is the way to eternal life? Does he mean that faith is not important, but keeping the law is important? How is faith in Jesus implied in this passage?

13. How could Jesus' promise in verse 21 and verse 29 affect our view of the way we use our resources?

Application Questions

1. We have roughly a third of our members at NFCC who do not give anything to the church financially. If you are one of these families, please consider what Jesus is saying in these passages. Pray about being obedient to the Lord in this area of your life. Pray for his wisdom and strength to change the way you are handling the gifts he has given you.

2. Do you think that giving toward the \$675,000 needed to begin construction on the larger sanctuary qualifies as laying up treasures in heaven? Why? Or Why not?

Walk (30 minutes)

After enjoying fellowship, worship, and time in God's word together, it is now time to pray together as a group and encourage one another in the faith. It is very easy for this portion of the group time to be consumed by the other portions. However, this segment of the group time is crucially important. It answers the question, how do we apply what we are learning in Matthew to our lives today?

Many groups have found that it is helpful to sometimes break up into a men's group and a women's group for the purpose of being able to be more transparent and honest as we encourage one another and keep one another accountable. I encourage you to try this in your groups.

In addition to praying for, and encouraging, one another, this portion of the group time should also be used for planning how your group can participate in God's work outside the walls of our church – "neighbors and nations." Discuss with your group some ideas on how you can be intentional with building relationships with your neighbors and co-workers. What can your Community Group do to impact the area around you?

Here is a list of local ministries Norris Ferry is actively involved in:

Hub/purchased
Young life
Heart of hope
First priority
Ark-la-Tex crisis pregnancy center
Community renewal
Grief counseling
Celebrate recovery
Samaritan counseling
Last call ministries
Golden age ministries
Rescue mission
Luke's lighthouse
FCA

May the Lord bless and encourage you as you are in your groups this week! Know that we are praying for you on a weekly basis and that we are here to help you in any way that we can!

Walk Prayer & Missions

For further information visit
norrisferrychurch.org or contact Jared
Clary (clary@norrisferrychurch.org)

Calendar

November— South Sudan
February 22nd- March 3rd — South Sudan
March 29th- April 1st— NOLA
June— Serve Shreveport
July— Central America