

MASTER TEACHER SUNDAY: The season of Advent encourages us to ponder the tension between consumerism and contentment in our lives.

THE GOSPEL & OUR CULTURE (CONSUMERISM) | TIER 1 DISCIPLESHIP | 1 Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19

December 22, 2019

DISCUSSION GUIDE :: AT A GLANCE

MASTER TEACHER: INTRODUCTION: (7 minutes)

OPENING ACTIVITY: The Race for Pennies

ACTIVITY QUESTION: Pennies do not offer much value but what was it that made you want to keep competing to get more pennies?

SHARE: transitional content and opening story about McDonald's.

PRAY: Ask the Holy Spirit to open our hearts to desire, see, understand, & live the truth.

READ: 1 Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19 out loud then begin the DIG Method.

DISCOVER - Asking Who, What, Where, or When (4 min)

WHAT does the Word of God attribute to great gain? (v.6)

WHAT is the outcome for those who want to get rich? (v.9-10)

WHAT does the Word of God instruct us in how to lay up treasures in heaven? (v.18-19)

INVESTIGATE - Asking Why or How (4 min)

HOW could the desire for more money/possessions lead us into many other kinds of temptations or, potentially, even cause us to wander away from the faith?

WHY is it dangerous for people with money/possessions to be arrogant/find their fulfillment in their money/possessions?

WHY is it hard to be open handed with our money/possessions and share with others?

BREAK UP INTO SMALL GROUPS

Encouragers take attendance with the LEAD App & Ask guests to complete a connection card.

GO - Asking Questions That Require Action (4 min)

WHERE are you lacking contentment right now in your life? Or WHAT would you add to your life right now that you believe would bring you some level of happiness?

HOW do the promises of the Gospel (great future treasure/reward) help you remain content in this world?

ACTIVITY: Let's Talk About Our Possessions (10 min)

IDENTIFY some of your favorite possessions in your past that brought you a lot of happiness?

WHICH of those things no longer bring you happiness? WHY?

IDENTIFY some of your favorite possessions right now that bring you a lot of happiness?

How much turmoil would you experience if they were somehow taken from you? Be honest!

HOW are you currently using your favorite possessions to help others and serve the Kingdom of God? Help each other how to creatively leverage our things/our money for God's

Kingdom?

Current Memory Verse

Hebrews 4:13

Provided Supplies

No Supplies
Needed



Sermon Connection

Today's
Discussion is not
specifically tied
to Owen's
Message.



Emmaus Connection

When a
connection is
being made to
our discussion we
will outline that
here.

COMMUNITY & CONCLUSION (10 min)

CLOSING QUESTIONS: Related to this morning's DIG study & the activity... How can we pray/encourage you this week? How can we hold you accountable this week?

PRAY: Spend time praying for each other. ENCOURAGE them to follow up with each other.

DISCUSSION GUIDE :: EXPANDED

MASTER TEACHER: INTRODUCTION: (12 minutes)

OPENING ACTIVITY: Race for Pennies.

- *Everyone gets a penny. Give a few minutes for everyone to acquire as many pennies as possible. You acquire pennies by playing "Paper, Rock, Scissors". If you win you get your opponents penny (or pennies if they have won multiple times). If someone challenges you to a game then you have to play them. Every time you lose you hand over all your pennies to the winner. We will play for an undisclosed amount of time. The person at the end of the time with the most pennies wins.*

ACTIVITY QUESTION: Pennies do not offer much value but what was it that made you want to keep competing to get more pennies?

SHARE: Transitional content and Opening Illustration about McDonalds.

- **Does anyone want to guess what new product McDonald's was wanting to introduce in 1979?** *The Happy Meal! Before introducing this product there was debate within the company what to call it. The Marketing genius came up with "The HAPPY meal". They weren't selling just a cheeseburger, fries, & a hot wheels car. No...no..no...they were selling children happiness. Yet the happiest of all was Mr. Ronald McDonald himself. McDonalds sells half a million Happy Meals A DAY! Lots of \$\$\$ in Ronald's pockets. There is something addictive about the Happy Meal for children everywhere. A standard burger & fries aren't enough. But as we grow older our "happy meals" just get more elaborate and more expensive.*
- **This morning's opening game and story about McDonalds reveal a problem with all of us.** *We are consumers and our culture finds ways to feed our cravings. What we have now is not enough. Even the Holiday season has become a festival for getting things that are bigger and better. What does the Gospel, the Word of God, say about this problem? Let's pray before we read about it in the Word.*

PRAY: Ask the Holy Spirit to open our hearts to desire, see, understand, and live the truth.

READ: 1 Timothy 6:6-10,17-19 out loud, & then begin the DIG Method.

- **1 Thessalonians 6:6-10** **6** *But godliness with contentment is great gain.* **7** *For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it.* **8** *But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.* **9** *Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.* **10** *For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.*
17 *Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.* **18** *Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.* **19** *In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.*

DISCOVER - Asking Who, What, Where, or When (4 min)

WHAT does the Word of God attribute to great gain? (v.6)

- *Godliness + Contentment = Great Gain*

WHAT is the outcome of those who want to get rich? (v.9-10)

- *They fall into a trap and into many harmful desires that lead one into great destruction. And for some lead people to wander away from Jesus all together.*

HOW does the Word of God instruct us to lay up treasures in heaven? (v.18-19)

- *To not focus on getting rich but to be rich in doing good deeds. To be generous and willing to share what you have with others.*

INVESTIGATE - Asking Why or How (4 min)

HOW could the desire for more money/possessions lead us into many other kinds of temptations or potentially, even cause us to wander away from the faith?

- *The desire for more money and possessions is a vicious cycle. Upon wanting and getting more we will soon surprisingly discover that it is not enough. There is no object or amount of money that will ultimately convince you that you finally have enough. There isn't a possession in this world that will lead you to finally quit your quest for more.*
- *This obsession can/will lead you to do unwise things, and at some point, lead you to forsake the pursuit of knowing and living for Jesus. Consider Demas. At one point he was apparently a faithful follower of Jesus and supporter of the apostle Paul. **1 Timothy 4:10** "for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica."*

WHY is it dangerous for people with money/possessions to be arrogant and find their fulfillment in their money/possessions? (v.17)

- *Money/Possessions, no matter how much we have, can give us a false sense of security; making us feel more safe than we really are. They convince us that we have everything under control in life because every worry or difficulty can be answered with money and the ability to get more things.*
- *Ultimately, money/possessions are temporary/uncertain in this life. The presence of money/possessions in your life today is no guarantee of its presence in the future. Much more, money/possessions provide you no security or hope for eternity. Only God can give you that. The joy He gives us through His Son, Jesus will last an eternity. Invest in the Kingdom of God not your bank account.*

WHY is it hard to be open handed with our money/possessions and share with others?

- *Money/Possessions are not inherently bad they just make bad Gods. If we are unable to share our things and use our money/possessions for the good of others for the work of the Kingdom of God then money/possessions might be our God.*

BREAK UP INTO SMALL GROUPS

Take ATTENDANCE with the LEAD App.

Ask GUESTS to complete a CONNECTION card. Find ways to learn about the guest.

GO - Asking Questions That Require Action (5 min)

WHERE are you lacking contentment right now in your life? Or WHAT would you add to your life right now that you believe would bring you some level of happiness?

- *After your group has had a chance to share now would be a good time for you as a leader to be vulnerable and share your own personal struggles with contentment.*

HOW could the promises of the Gospel (great future treasure/reward) help you fight against the obsession to selfishly gain more wealth/possessions and remain content in this world?

- *Figuratively Jesus became poor so we could become rich spiritually both now and in Heaven. Because Jesus is our reward both now and in Heaven we can trust that He is enough to satisfy us now but also to remember that the best is yet to come. We cannot serve two masters! **1 John 3:2-3** says, **2** Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. **3** All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.*

With all these warnings about money & possessions, do you think the goal in life, biblically, is to be as poor as possible or to be a minimalist (owning as little possessions as possible)? Why or Why not?

- *Being wealthy and owning possessions is not sinful. It's sinful to use your money and possessions for only selfish reasons. Pursuing a job that will provide you with a substantial income certainly can become an obstacle spiritually but it can also be an opportunity to advance the kingdom of God.*

ACTIVITY: (10 min)

IDENTIFY some of your favorite possessions in your past that brought you a lot of happiness? WHICH of those things no longer bring you happiness? WHY?

IDENTIFY some of your favorite possessions right now that bring you a lot of happiness? How much turmoil would you experience if they were somehow taken from you? Be honest!

HOW are you currently using your money or your favorite possessions to help others and serve the Kingdom of God? Help each other how to creatively leverage our things/our money for God's Kingdom?

COMMUNITY & CONCLUSION (10 min)

CLOSING QUESTIONS: Related to this morning's DIG study or other spiritual struggles... How can we **pray** for you? How can we **encourage** you this week? How can we hold you **accountable** this week?

- *Please use the above questions & **refrain** from stating, "Does anyone have any prayer requests?" This is too general & doesn't ask the student directly about spiritual issues. Until your group develops greater community invite students to connect with you individually.*

PRAY: Spend time in prayer as a group.

- *This will depend upon the life of your small group and the willingness of the individuals. A big win would be that everyone gets prayed for and every person prays. However, if your group isn't there yet take small baby steps throughout the year.*

POST SMALL GROUP STUDENT CONNECTION

ENCOURAGE: Pray for each other & check in with each other for encouragement & accountability.

- *As the adult encourager set the tone and be the lead prayer warrior this week. Give them an example to follow by checking in with your small group via text, GroupMe, or whatever means your small group has adopted for regular communication.*

CONNECT: With your small group or the students as individuals this week by...

- *Create a jpg (picture) through YouVersion App for the verse 1 Timothy 6:17-19 and share it with your small group.*
- *Use the creative ideas about using your possessions to advance the kingdom of God that your small group came up with in discussion to encourage your students this week. Tell them to come prepared to share with the group how they used their stuff/money to help others and advance the kingdom of God.*