



SERMON STUDY GUIDE
For the sermon preached on
11/22/2020:
“Choose Wisely”
Luke 16:10-13

How to use the Study Guide During Virtual Online Group Meetings

Group life is even more critical during this incredible season. Over and over, group leaders are reporting that suddenly there is a new hunger to connect, share, pray, and meditate on Scripture together, and so we are making these guides available weekly and suggesting a new format during this season.

As you know, our Group Life’s vision is to “practice the way of Jesus.” And while Jesus never had to lead a Torah study over Zoom, he was strategic in his teaching ministry, and we want to be as well.

There are a number of differences between meeting in person and meeting online, ranging from the obvious to the subtle. One is, given our attention spans for online meetings, we want to encourage you to limit the length of your call between 45-60 minutes and we are calling this “Check-In Plus One.” Meaning, spend a few minutes checking in with your group and see if there are any new needs with them (or even amongst their neighbors). “The One” is to spend time in study. As our virtual season continues, our desire for meaningful content and interaction will grow. Given our new format, the study guides based on Sunday’s Sermon will be designed to be more application based (as opposed to unpacking the text with the Inductive Bible Study method). You might consider sharing the passage beforehand with your group in hopes that they might spend more time with the Scripture before the gathering.

As always, we are so grateful for you, your gifting, your servant leadership, and all that you do in practicing the way of Jesus in community.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Tim Ghali and Pastor Rachel Keeler on behalf of the Group Life Team

For the Leader: “Check-In Plus One”

Welcome everyone to the Zoom call and outline the goal of this call being 45 minutes. Spend 15-20 minutes checking in with one another, then move into a time of prayer, and then spend some time discussing the application of the Scripture passage.

A “Check-in” question might be, “How are you doing, and is there anything new that has arisen in your life or in your neighborhood that we can pray about?”

This week we have a guest preacher: Joe Sangl, founder of I Was Broke. Now I'm Not., the president and CEO of INJOY Stewardship Solutions, and co-founder of Fully Funded. Joe has been invited to speak to our congregation about biblical teaching on finances. The primary text for this sermon is **Luke 16:10-13**:

10 "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. 11 So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? 12 And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?"

13 "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."

Q – Joe shared several Scriptures relating to money and possessions, beginning with Psalm 24:1: "The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it."

- How would you summarize, in just a few words, the Bible's teaching on money and material possessions? See if you can work together as a group to paint a picture of what God's Word has to say on this topic.
- Why do you think we as Christians typically spend so little time exploring and teaching about biblical teaching on money? What gets in the way?
- In what ways do biblical teachings on money and possessions currently shape your own attitude toward these things? How might you bring your relationship to money and possessions into greater alignment with wisdom from Scripture?

Q – In Luke 16:13, Jesus teaches: "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."

- How would you describe your current relationship to money and possessions?
- How is money a spiritual matter?

Q – Joe said that "God is honored when we **give, save, invest, and plan the rest.**" In which of these four areas might you most need to grow at this point in your life?

- **Give:** Who do you want to bless with your financial or material giving? Have you been growing in your giving over the past few years?
- **Save:** What might be some biblical reasons to save? Why do so many people find it so hard to save?
- **Invest:** What does Scripture say about investment? How might we honor God with our investments?
- **Plan the rest:** Why is it important to write down your plans, hopes, and dreams for your life? How might God be calling you to grow in your planning?

Let's pray that as a community, we will support, encourage, and challenge one another to grow as stewards and more and more to honor God with our financial decisions.