

3 Keys to Financial Freedom

Bryan Wilkerson, Senior Pastor

[Thanks for checking out our sermon-based Study Guides! If you've never used our Study Guides before, you'll find some basic instructions below the discussion questions.]

THREE KEYS TO FINANCIAL FREEDOM

May 1, 2022

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Q – The title of this week's sermon is "Three Keys to Financial Freedom." Pastor Bryan began by predicting that most people would have one of two responses to that title: "Oh, no!" or "Oh, good!"

- What are some of the reasons people might have for each of those responses? What are some of the thoughts, feelings, or experiences that shape our reactions to the idea of a sermon on finances?
- What does the phrase "financial freedom" mean to you?

Q – The first of the three keys to financial freedom is **stewardship**, the biblical idea that everything we have actually belongs to God, and that God simply places it in our hands to manage for him. Pastor Bryan cited three Scripture passages in relation to stewardship—let's read them together:

- Psalm 24:1: "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it."
- 1 Chronicles 29:10-14 [a prayer of King David]: "Praise be to you, O Lord . . .for everything in heaven and earth is yours. . . . Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand."
- Matthew 25:14-15: "[The Kingdom of God] will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent. . . . Then he went on his journey."
- What strikes you in these verses?
- How does knowing that everything belongs to God contribute to a sense of financial freedom?

Q – The second key to financial freedom is **planning**—Scripture tells us that "The plans of the diligent lead to profit, as surely as haste leads to poverty" (Proverbs 21:5).

- Why do you think so many people struggle to make or to keep financial plans? What is one obstacle you have experienced to making or keeping a budget? What resources, tools, or strategies have helped you to make and keep a budget?

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- What is concrete step toward financial freedom you could take in the area of planning and budgeting?

Q – The third key to financial freedom is **generosity**, which Bryan defined as “the readiness to give more of something than is expected,” whether that be money, time, energy, kindness, knowledge, or love. Bryan pointed us to 2 Corinthians 9:8, 11: “And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. . . . You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion.”

- What is God promising us in this passage?
- Why do we sometimes struggle to be generous with our money, time, energy, kindness, knowledge, and love?
- What is one area of generosity—money, time, energy, kindness, knowledge, or love—in which God might be inviting you to grow in this season of your life?
- What is one concrete step you could take to be more generous in that area?

Q – With regard to financial giving, Bryan talked about the “Generosity Journey”—from **new** giving, to **regular** giving, to **proportional** giving, to **abundant** giving.

- How does a spirit of generosity contribute to our financial freedom?
- As you think about your own Generosity Journey, what help would you like to ask God to give you, so that you can take your next step?

HOW TO USE THESE STUDY GUIDES

- Consider sending out the Scripture passage to your group members ahead of time.
- Begin each meeting with a short time of checking in with one another.
- You may want to begin the discussion by reading the Scripture passage together out loud, or by summarizing the passage if everyone has read it ahead of time.
- Don’t feel like you need to discuss every question included in the Study Guide. Pick one or two to start with, and see how the conversation flows.
- If your group meets over Zoom:
 - You may need to do more overt facilitating over Zoom than you would in person. Feel free to call on people to invite them to share.
 - Try to be sensitive to attention spans over Zoom—keep the meetings shorter than they would be in person.
- Be sure to set aside time for sharing prayer requests and praying together.

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Group Leader Support: Please reach out to your Campus Pastor or your Coach if you have any questions about leading your group or concerns about your group dynamic. If you have questions about or feedback on the Study Guides, please reach out to Pastor Tim or Pastor Rachel from the Group Life team.

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