

— weekly —
**STUDY
GUIDE**

WORK MATTERS

WEEK 9 // *Investing in God's Business*

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Introduction

Welcome to week nine of the Work Matters study. Last week we learned the difference between a career and a vocation. This week we seek to find the answer to the question: Is there more to our work than just the work? As you begin, prepare your mind to receive the lesson God has for you.

In this guide you will find questions for your own personal study along with questions to discuss at a Bible study, neighborhood gathering, or at the dinner table with family and friends. Enjoy!

Personal Study

During Jesus' life He spoke on numerous topics like repentance, faith, friendship, and more. Let's see what we can learn from one of His teachings on managing money.

READ

Read Matthew 6:19-24 and consider the questions below.

CONSIDER

- In your opinion, what is the main point Jesus is trying to communicate?

- Jesus guides us to invest in “treasures” that will last in heaven. What are some practical examples of ways you could make eternal investments right now?

Personal Study Continued...

- In what ways have you invested in things that are temporal, things that can be “destroyed by moths and vermin, or stolen by thieves?”

Sometimes greed can cloud our judgment and manipulate our decision-making. In Luke Chapter 12, Jesus encounters a person who had been ensnared by greed.

READ

Read Luke 12:13-21 and consider the questions below:

CONSIDER

- Jesus seemed to be bothered by this man’s plea for help. What do you think may have irritated Him about the man’s request?

- In the parable, the farm owner was going to tear down his barns and build bigger barns that could contain his incredible harvest. Jesus seemed to think this was a foolish choice. Based on what you know about Jesus, what do you think He wanted him to do instead?

- If Jesus was evaluating your money management this month, what would He say?

PRAY

Spend a few minutes thanking God for the many ways he has provided for you. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any money-managing habits that are foolish. Ask God to forgive you for any greed-motivated decisions you have made with your money. Then, ask Him to fill you with a spirit of gratitude and generosity.

Group Study

ICE BREAKER

Discuss this question as a group. If you were given \$5,000 dollars to invest in the charity of your choice, which charity would you choose and why? (Example: Haven for Hope, because they help the homeless develop the skills and health to be self-sustaining)

Previously, we learned this key truth about work:

- Your identity and dignity are not wrapped up in your job position, or title, but in your position in Christ.

DISCUSS

- What new insights or questions about work came to your mind over the last week?
- What obstacles are impeding your ability to discern your God-given vocation? What can you do to overcome these challenges?

The first century church was able to accomplish incredible feats through the empowering of the Holy Spirit and a community of people that held their possessions loosely. Let's see what we can learn from their example.

READ

Read Acts 4:32-37 and discuss the questions below:

DISCUSS

- In what ways, if any, are you impressed by how the first century believers cared for one another?
- Do you see any similarities in the first century church and your Christian community? Are there differences?
- How do you think the community got to the place where they didn't see their possessions as their own? What causes someone to handle their belongings in this way?

CASE STUDY

Use the following case study as a model for a real life situation where you could put this week's lesson into practice.

Jeremy's sales record has doubled every quarter this year. For the first time in his life, he isn't living paycheck to paycheck. When his coworkers ask him for his secret to his success, he says it is a combination of hard work and dreaming big.

He has always been a dreamer. During middle school Jeremy fantasized about owning a pair of jet skis, a big screen TV, and a big black truck. In addition to his dreams, Jeremy developed a soft spot for the homeless. He and his mom lived out of their car for most of his freshman and sophomore year. After that difficult period of their lives, he vowed to help people in need if he was ever in a position to do so.

Now that he has some extra income, he can't decide what to do with it. Part of him feels like he deserves to reward himself for the hard work. Another part of him feels like he should use the money to help someone in need.

Using the scriptures from this study guide for insight, what could you say and do to help Jeremy?

PRAY

Close your time together by praying for the needs of the people in your group. Invite the Holy Spirit to loosen your grip on your possessions and fill your heart with true generosity. Lastly, ask God to show you ways to use your wealth for His kingdom purposes.