Faith Aflame: 360 Degrees

Stewardship Learning Community
Living in God's Economy
Responding to God's Gifts

Opening Prayer

Scripture Read **Luke 12:13-21**. E. G. Link begins the introduction to his book, *To Whom Much Is Given,* with this question, "What do you do when you have more than enough?" This was the question the rich man had to answer in the parable Jesus told. Perhaps, before one can answer the question above, another question needs to be considered, "How much is enough?" So, when it comes to money and possessions, how much is enough?

Introduction

"What is your life about? Why do you exist? Do you exist simply to consume as much as you can and get as much pleasure as you can while you are here on earth, or do you have a higher purpose? How do you understand your life purpose—your vision or mission or calling? And are you spending your money in ways that are consistent with this life purpose? The answers to these questions are very important…Experience and observation tell me that many of us have not taken the time to think about our life purpose," writes Adam Hamilton in *Enough* (page 37).

- Why is knowing your life's purpose so important?
- How does knowing your life's purpose connect to the question, "What do you do when you have more than enough?"
- How do God's words to Abram in Genesis 12:1-3 apply to the life of a Christian?
- What did the way the rich man lived in the parable say about his purpose in life?
- For personal reflection: What is your life's purpose?
- For personal reflection: What does the way you live say about your purpose in life?

"The Bible's assumption is that money and possessions are spiritual concerns and reveal more about an individual than any other aspect of life." –Ronald Vallet

Read and discuss the following passages about money and possessions:

Luke 6:24-25	Matthew 19:24	Luke 14:33
Mathew 6:19-21	Matthew 25:44-45	Luke 12:15

A Stewardship Prayer

Heavenly Father, we know that every good and perfect gift comes from Your almighty hand.

You richly and daily provide me and all people with everything we need to support this body and life.

You give clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals and all that I have.

But most of all You gave Your only Son for our salvation.

With grateful hearts we respond to Your great generosity by being generous.

God grant it for Jesus sake, Amen.

A Closer Look At The Parable of The Rich Fool

- Read **Psalm 14:1**. What is the Psalmist's definition of a fool?
- Why is the man in the parable a fool?

In *Jesus, Money, and Me*, Ron L. Jones points out the following mistakes a fool makes with money:

The first mistake a fool makes with money is relying on man's reason and not God's revelation.

- How does the rich man in the parable make this mistake?
- How do people today make this mistake? (Give concrete examples.)
- How can a Christian avoid this mistake?

The second mistake a fool makes with money is hoarding his surplus rather than sharing it with others.

- How does the rich man in the parable make this mistake?
- How do people today make this mistake? (Give concrete examples.)
- How can a Christian avoid this mistake?

The third mistake a fool makes with money is acting like an owner and not a steward.

- How does the rich man in the parable make this mistake?
- How do people today make this mistake? (Give concrete examples.)
- How can a Christian avoid this mistake?

The fourth mistake a fool makes with money is living with time and not eternity in view.

- How does the rich man in the parable make this mistake?
- How do people today make this mistake? (Give concrete examples.)
- How can a Christian avoid this mistake?

What is the main point Jesus is making in this parable?

How will I apply that truth to my life and the life of my church?

Closing Prayer

Provide time at the end of each session for questions, comments and group prayer. The prayer can take one of the following forms or be done in a way the group decides.

Adoration…
Confession…
Thanksgiving…
Supplication…
Praise…
Remember…
Ask…
Yield…

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