

Series: Makin It Rain	Reference: Ecclesiastes 5:88-12 & 15	Title: For The Love of Money	Date: 4.28.19
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Community Group Questions

Take time to pray through the Six:Eight Prayer Foci for 2019

*If the Holy Spirit gives anyone a specific word for the church
share them with the other Community Group Leaders.*

1. **FREEDOM:** Pray against spiritual attack on our church body & its members, so that kingdom ministry goes unhindered.
2. **SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION:** Pray we'd abide in the Presence of Christ, honoring the Word & Spirit of God, being transformed & becoming more effective in witness. That we'd be drawn deeply into worship & prayer in powerful ways this year.
3. **LEADERSHIP:** Pray for leadership to be filled with the knowledge of the Word & power of the Spirit, operating out of the two as gracious strong servant leaders.
4. **MINISTRIES:** For all 8 church ministries to run smoothly, having all current & future resources provided for them to thrive (*Kids, Community Groups, Kingdom Opportunities, Stewardship, Impressions, Worship Arts, Prayer, Missions*).
5. **LOCAL EVANGELISM:** That we'd preach the Word boldly & minister in the power of the Spirit to see people come to faith & publicly declare that through baptism. - for divine openings with neighbors, coworkers, friends & Community Partners.
6. **CROSS-CULTURAL MISSION:** To be a '*House of Prayer for all Nations*' (Isaiah 56:7), obedient to the Great Commission (Mt 28:18-20), overflowing to our Kinship Network relationships reaching Arab world Muslims, and other mission endeavors of the church.
7. **GIVING:** Pray that we'd be stretched in faithful giving of our financial resources in order not to be hindered in our kingdom ministry as a church.

Study Questions

1. **ICEBREAKER:** One person gives their testimony! Listen to their story quietly, then spend a minute in silent prayer before the Holy Spirit about it. Allow the Spirit to speak into what was said, then share anything of encouragement with that person.
2. In this sermon we began by saying, *“a wise person puts limits on desire to find healthy balance, lives by promise & not explanation, values, sacrifices for & invests in people, walks in reliance & faith through life’s seasons, understands wisdom is that which makes sense in light of eternity, chooses to be happy & does good, is not cynical, but hopeful, is boldly respectful, full of integrity & obedient to the voice of God.”*
 1. We concluded that the writer also says, ‘a wise person invests their resources in the kingdom of God.’
 2. How do all the other things in point 2 above feed into this conclusion?
 3. Which ones do you struggle with, which ones come easy?
3. Look at 1 Timothy 6:10, Ecclesiastes 5:10/12
 1. What ‘evils’ are we led into when we value money more highly than trusting God?
 2. What values which surround money, stature, and other such Extrinsic Values are fostered in our society & maybe more so on the Main Line?
 3. Do you worry about these & money? Is your life governed by them?
 4. Or, are you easily able to practice Hebrews 13:5-6, Philippians 4:11–13 & Matthew 6:25-34? Read these & discuss how these principles draw us deeper into trust of God with all our lives & resources.
4. If you had been in the same position as the Vietnamese restaurant owner in the middle of wartime, would you have liquidated your assets & given it all away to others before leaving? Discuss how this is such a drastic show of spiritual trust in God coming out in very real physical/financial blessing on others.
5. What is your take on the three aspects of Happiness (50% genetic, 10% circumstances, and 40% choices) coupled with the idea of living for Intrinsic Values (personal growth, relationships & a desire to help others) & physical health/activity?
 1. Do you do things to foster physical health?
 2. Do you make good choices in line with the holiness & purity God calls His people to foster greater happiness?
 3. How do these things either help to change our circumstances or allow us to weather difficulty well?
 4. Consider the quote we shared in your discussion: *‘Happiness is ‘living in harmony with the deepest aspirations of life which are possessing Christ & sharing fellowship with God. Happiness is about the direction of desire; being happy isn’t dependent on the contingencies of life, but on the ability to keep passion focused on its true goal in the midst of these contingencies. People are happy when their actions line up with the τέλος (the purpose or end goal) of God. Justice, then, can be defined as seeing to the happiness of others.’*

6. Luke 12:34 says, *For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*
 1. Where's your treasure?
 2. Where is it your greatest temptation to put your trust other than in Christ?
 3. Have you seen God take care of you when you've treasured Him above all else?
 4. How does the conclusion by the writer of Ecclesiastes that the wise person 'lives by promise, and not by explanation' play into this?

7. HOMEWORK:

1. Go home, pray & ask the Holy Spirit where your heart needs to be aligned with His on these issues.
2. Meditate prayerfully on Hebrews 13:15-16 & 2 Corinthians 9:6-15.
3. Review your heart of Giving, and realign yourself with the heart of God in it.
4. Review your finances, are you giving joyfully & abundantly towards the work of God's Kingdom in this church and beyond?
5. Have you ever taken stock of the percentage of your tithe & set the goal of giving at least the standard 10% in the Scriptures to your local church?
6. Pray God would make you able to live by 'Promise, not Explanation' as you reevaluate your giving.