

WEEK 5: DOES GOD PROMISE TO MAKE US RICH OR SHOULD CHRISTIANS BE POOR?

GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

PREPARE

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MAIN POINT

Some teachers have burdened people with messages like “if you are not healthy and wealthy then something is wrong with your faith”—often called the “prosperity gospel.” Others have guilted Christians for not being poor or not suffering enough—often called the “poverty gospel.” Both prosperity and poverty gospels fail us because they focus on us—on how much we own and how we prove our holiness with either wealth or poverty. The overarching message of Scripture is He owns, we get to steward what He gives, and Jesus is our holiness—not our wealth or lack of.

LEAN IN BREAK THE ICE

What was your first job, and was it great, terrible, or somewhere in between?

LOOK DOWN LOOK AT GOD'S WORD

Read 1 Chronicles 29:12-16

12 Riches and honor come from you, and you are the ruler of everything. Power and might are in your hand, and it is in your hand to make great and to give strength to all. 13 Now therefore, our God, we give you thanks and praise your glorious name.

14 But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? For everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your own hand. 15 For we are aliens and temporary residents in your presence as were all our ancestors. Our days on earth are like a shadow, without hope. 16 Lord our God, all this wealth that we've provided for building you a house for your holy name comes from your hand; everything belongs to you.

Read 1 Chronicles 29:12-16. Where does David say all wealth ultimately comes from? Or, put another way, who is the source and owner of all wealth?

To whom does David say everything belongs?

LOOK OUT
IDENTIFY THE
RELEVANCE IF GOD'S
WORD IN THE WORLD

In what ways does our culture clearly worship money and wealth?

What does it look like to be wise about money while also not worshipping it?

How does God being the source and owner of all wealth affect how we think about and handle money?

LOOK IN
APPLY GOD'S WORD
TO YOUR LIFE

In what ways are you most often tempted to care too much about, and even worship, money and wealth?

How can Christian community (like ours) help one another manage our money wisely and guard our hearts against worshiping it?