

WEEK 5: A STORY ABOUT THE END AND WHAT MATTERS NOW

GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

PREPARE

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MAIN POINT

We spend a lot of time in this world making money, thinking about money, spending money, saving money, and wasting money. As Jesus told stories about His second coming, about His return, and challenged people to live wisely in light of that reality, He shared a parable about money, emphasizing that how we view money says a lot about us, our view of God, and our relationship to Him.

LEAN IN BREAK THE ICE

If you came across a large sum of money today—through an inheritance or something like that—would you be more prone to spend it and invest it, or save it and just try to never lose it?

LOOK DOWN LOOK AT GOD'S WORD

Read Matthew 25:14-30

14 "For it is just like a man about to go on a journey. He called his own servants and entrusted his possessions to them. 15 To one he gave five talents, to another two talents, and to another one talent, depending on each one's ability. Then he went on a journey. Immediately 16 the man who had received five talents went, put them to work, and earned five more. 17 In the same way the man with two earned two more. 18 But the man who had received one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground, and hid his master's money.

19 "After a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. 20 The man who had received five talents approached, presented five more talents, and said,

'Master, you gave me five talents. See, I've earned five more talents.'

21 "His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You were faithful over a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Share your master's joy.'

22 "The man with two talents also approached. He said, 'Master, you gave me two talents. See, I've earned two more talents.'

23 "His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You were faithful over a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Share your master's joy.'

24 "The man who had received one talent also approached and said, 'Master, I know you. You're a harsh man, reaping where you haven't sown and gathering where you haven't scattered seed. 25 So I was afraid and went off and hid your talents in the ground. See, you have what is yours.'

26 "His master replied to him, 'You evil, lazy servant! If you knew that I reap where I haven't sown and gather where I haven't scattered, 27 then you should have deposited my money with the bankers, and I would have received my money back with interest when I returned.

28 "'So take the talent from him and give it to the one who has ten talents. 29 For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have more than enough. But from the one who does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. 30 And throw this good-for-nothing servant into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Read Matthew 25:14-30. What do you learn about wise and poor stewardship from the passage?

This parable is one of three in Matthew 25 related to Christ's return. How does this passage encourage and challenge us to think about His return?

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

Why is it so easy to focus on the present and forget the eternal?

How does the life of someone who sees himself as a “steward” of what he has look different from someone who sees himself as an “owner” of what he has?

LOOK IN
APPLY GOD'S
WORD
TO YOUR LIFE

In the message, Eric encourages us to think of ourselves as “stewards” rather than “owners.” How are you challenged to live that out?