

Ice breaker question:

What would you like to be doing (or what are you doing) in your retirement?

Discuss:

1. The rich fool says in the story he will build bigger barns to store “all *my* grain and *my* goods.” Do you wrestle with remembering that all you have is on loan from God? What practices might we use to remember that all we have is a gift from God?
2. It’s been pointed out that “the majority of advertising exploits our insecurities.” Can you think of commercials for which that is true? How does God’s word combat that idea?
3. Does the money you have bring you closer to your neighbors and your community or isolate you from them?
4. The “fool” in the parable seems content to build bigger barns and eat, drink, and be merry. If he lived that way, that’s what he would be remembered for. How would you like to be remembered?
5. In Luke 12:31 Jesus says, “But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.” How would we be living if we truly believed this?
6. Near the end of this passage (and in Matthew 6:20), Jesus says to store up for yourselves treasures in heaven. How do you define that – to store up treasures in heaven?

Telling Our Stories:

Just a reminder that at ZPC, we want our Home Groups to be more than social opportunities. While this initial connection is certainly important, we want our relationships to go deeper than that. One of the best ways to go deeper with one another is to share our stories in such a way that we are honest about our flaws and we are not afraid to be vulnerable. When we do this and we are open to God using our stories, they can impact lives—both ours and others. Share more about your stories this week with your group by answering the question: “What God-given dream have you been nurturing?”

Prayer:

Keep the following prayer requests from our church family in mind as you close:

- > Prayers of comfort for Brenda and Alan Quick in the death of Brenda’s mother Lingle.
- > Prayers of healing for Hillary Bustamante.
- > Please pray for all of the veterans who have served our country.

Ways to serve with your Home Group over the holiday season:

- > Operation Christmas Child | Contact: Sarah Gray [sarahgray3@yahoo.com]
- > Community Assistance Ministries | Contact: Christy Tharp [ttharp9582@icloud.com]
- > Shepherd Totes | Contact: Karyl Bierwagen [karylbierrwagen@gmail.com]

Background for home group leaders:

We live in a world where there is some volatility in the stock market and some fear of the future. We can all be tempted to worry about things like money, security and saving enough for retirement. Having enough money to retire is not a bad thing, but we are called to weigh that against bringing about God’s kingdom by focusing on the values that God deems most important. May we struggle against temptations about money and things and instead give God thanks for all we have, placing our trust in God to provide for what we need.

[Question 1] James 1:17 says that “every good and perfect gift is from above.” When we start our prayers with thanksgiving, it is easier to remember how blessed we are – and that it is God who blesses us. If God cares for the ravens in the sky and the lilies in the field (Luke 12:24, 27), then he cares for you so much more! Practice thanksgiving and praise to God to remind yourself that God is the great giver.

[Question 2] Beer and car commercials typically show young, beautiful people who are smiling and loving life. Commercials like those tap into our insecurities that other people are happier than we are, the grass is greener somewhere else, and if we only had more things, then we would be satisfied.

[Question 3] 1 Timothy 6:10 says that, “the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.” If we love money or make comfort an idol, it can actually separate us from others. If we see money as a means to do good things and to bless others, it may draw us closer to our neighbors and communities.

[Question 4] For leaders, the second question might be: What do you want it to say on your epitaph? What do you want people to say at your funeral?

[Question 5] In Luke 12:22-34, Jesus answers this question in some specific ways. We are not to worry, but to give thanks, not to run after material possessions, but to give to the poor. These kinds of practices help us to seek God’s kingdom first.

[Question 6] Author N.T. Wright says that when we bring the priorities and values of God’s kingdom into our own world, we are storing up treasures in heaven. When we practice using our time, talents, and treasures for others, we are storing up treasures in heaven and not on earth.