

**Ice breaker question:**

Who's been the best boss you ever worked for and why?

**Discuss:**

1. When have you been in a difficult situation at work, like the shrewd manager was with the rich owner? How did you handle the situation? Did your faith play a part in the way you reacted?
2. Why did the shrewd manager cut the bills of the debtors? What does he accomplish?
3. We like our Bible stories or lessons to be clear, but parables like this do not always offer the clarity we would like. Why is it beneficial to us that sometimes Jesus is a little mysterious in his teaching?
4. Jesus commends the manager for being smart with people in business and in "handling worldly wealth." How do these skills translate to handling "true riches?" (Luke 16:11)
5. Jesus says that no one can serve both God and wealth. How can we measure if we are serving God more or our money more? What measurements can we use in our everyday lives to analyze how we are doing in this area?
6. How do you view the money you have? Do any of these descriptions fit? It's mine, it's the creditors, it's God's.
7. How can this group pray for you in an area of your life dealing with finances? Please share a specific request, that you feel you can share, in regards to money or finances.

**Telling Our Stories:**

Share more about your stories this week with your group by answering the question: "How have you seen God at work in and through you since we last met?"

**Prayer:**

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

- > We celebrate with Jenn, Mark, Nico, and Marco McDonald in the birth of Francesca Aria
- > Please pray for healing for Jim Jett.
- > Please pray for continued healing for Talbot Sumners, Chuck Vogt, and Hadley Lehr.

**Upcoming service opportunities at ZPC:**

- > A few spots are still available to serve homeless families through IHN  
Contact: Margaret Gordon [shirazguru@aol.com; 317.219.9017]
- > Kairos Cookie Bake | Saturday, October 21 | 7:30 am-1 pm.  
Contact: Craig Olney [colney828@gmail.com; 317.733.0215]
- > If you sing, play an instrument, paint, dance, or do another form of art, ZPC's Worship Director Don Nieman would like to know about it. [donn@zpc.org; 317.873.6503]

**Background for home group leaders:**

This parable can be a little confusing as the shrewd (or dishonest!) manager is apparently commended for protecting his own skin. Yet Jesus uses the story to say how we need to be faithful in dealing with money, and even in the end, decide to serve God, not money.

**[Question 1]** We have all been in difficult spots with bosses. Some might even share about being fired. The shrewd manager was in the process of being fired, and then acts shrewdly with his clients, which impresses the boss. How have you reacted in difficult work times? Did faith play a part?

**[Question 2]** The shrewd manager cut the bills of the debtor in order to protect himself, or even to set himself up for a better situation once he is out on the street. The fact that Jesus uses this as an example of shrewd money management is a little confusing. It's not always easy to figure Jesus out, and that can be a good thing – to realize we don't have life all figured out.

**[Question 3]** God is mysterious in some ways. We will one day see face to face as we can only see now as a poor reflection in a mirror (1 Corinthians 13:12). To not know everything, and to have some mystery in life and in our understanding of God, can keep us on our toes, and humble us to keep seeking God in every situation.

**[Question 4]** We all have to deal with money, whether it is our personal budget, income taxes, investments, or paying rent or a mortgage. We can learn from dealing with worldly wealth in a smart way which can teach us to be smart in dealing with other resources (true riches) that uses them to the fullest possible utility.

**[Question 5]** A couple of ways we can measure or analyze if we are serving God or money is to look at our time and our bank account. How we use our time tells us what we prioritize. How we spend our money tells us what is really important to us. Are we using our time and money in ways that honor God? Do we have a mindset to be good stewards of the time, talents, and money God has entrusted to us?

**[Question 6]** This is another way to measure how we view money. Jesus says we must choose whether to serve God or wealth. If we view it only as "mine," maybe we are too selfish with it. If our money is all tied up to credit cards or debt, we are not being good stewards. If we are managing our money, but view it as God's money, then maybe we are on the right track.

**[Question 7]** This question is an opportunity for your group to be a bit more vulnerable. It can open up to some confidential sharing. Hopefully you can pray for each other honestly and carefully in regards to finances.