

Icebreaker:

Growing up, did your family give to church or other charitable causes? If so, how did their giving impact you?

1. Matthew 6 is in the middle of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. In Matthew 6, Jesus teaches about giving, praying, and fasting. What does it say about generosity that it is included right in the middle of Jesus' most famous teaching?
2. How would you describe the difference between storing up treasures on earth and storing up treasures in heaven?
3. If others were to view your life, what would they say your treasure is?
4. What is the connection between the eye and the body? What does it mean to have good eyes? How can having good eyes affect your generosity?
5. Jesus is very specific in that no one can serve both God and money. A person will be devoted to one and despise the other. Does this distinction seem harsh to you? How should it make us feel about money?
6. How have you seen money used in such a way that others knew they were important and that they mattered?
7. What comes to mind when you read this quote from martyred missionary Jim Elliott, "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose"?

prayer requests

- > Pray for groups of ZPCers traveling in Israel and serving in Spain.
- > Pray for the guests and team of the Women's Great Banquet in Rio Preto, Brazil. May they feel the presence of God as they join in fellowship and worship.

God's is a generous and loving God. He was willing to even give his only Son Jesus that we might have life. Jesus teaches that it is good for us to store up treasures in heaven, not earth. And that we should serve God, not money. The Bible speaks often about money and generosity. Our generosity is a tangible way to measure our faith.

1. The Sermon on the Mount is the longest and most famous set of teachings of Jesus in the gospels. For Jesus to spend a significant portion of it teaching about money and things (including the rest of Matthew 6) tells us how important it is to Jesus and how strongly he feels about what he is saying. Spending money is sometimes a way to show what matters to us, while our giving can be done in secret known only to God and not to show others.
2. For many Americans or even Westerners, storing up treasures on Earth might include investing in things that only last while we are here such as, houses, vacations, special material things for our children, cars. Treasures stored up for heaven might be investing in the future or in others so that they can know Jesus forever. These might be more in the area of spending time and money on relationships, and spending time and money on things like church, missions, children and adults with the goal of honoring Jesus in those relationships.
3. Encourage your group to be appropriately transparent here. Also encourage your group members that we can all still find ways to be generous to God and to his mission with the time and resources we have.
4. Having eyes to see with light can be seeing things the way God might see them, from God's point of view. Self-serving desires can cloud our eyes to not see things from God's view. If we see God's priorities, we are more likely to want to give to those priorities.
5. Jesus is making a distinction that it is our call to serve God, not anything else, including money. We live in a world where people can obsess over money, making it, saving it, investing it, spending it, worrying about it, and wanting more of it. Yet, serving God is a higher priority and if we can find ways to serve God with our money, then we are setting up treasures in heaven.
6. Each of us should have a story here. Encourage groups to share how money given has changed a life, not just through formal giving, but in a way you have seen a specific person or family blessed by generosity.
7. Jim Elliott was one of five young missionaries killed while trying to reach indigenous people and tell them about Jesus in Ecuador in 1956. While only a few people we know might ever die for their faith, all of us can be called to sacrifice treasures of earth for treasures of our faith that will last.