

SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

I Have Questions - Money

BEFORE GROUP

BOTTOM LINE

You can own money or money can own you.

SCRIPTURE

For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs (1 Timothy 6:10 NIV).

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also (Matthew 6:19-21 NIV).

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To get students to think about their expectations for what money can do in their lives and to help them make a shift in their heart when it comes to money.

THINK ABOUT THIS

Let's face it: the topic of money can be tricky. You can't always know how financially secure a student is or isn't just by their outward appearance. Be careful not to make judgements of the financial status of those you are leading based on what you see them wearing, the phones they do or don't carry or anything else. Steer clear of making assumptions about a family's financial choices or offering financial advice and instead use this time to encourage healthy attitudes about money and acknowledging that money is necessary for meeting basic needs and yet has limited ability to meet our eternal needs.

Create meaningful conversations. Adjust the questions as needed, and don't feel like you need to answer all of them.

DURING GROUP

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. There are so many words for "money." Tell a story about money without using the word, "money." And you can't use the words the person before you did! (other terms for money: butter, bread, bacon, cheddar, coin, paper, dough, grip, etc.)
2. If someone gave you a million dollars, what would you do with it? What would you do with \$1,000? What would you do with \$100?
3. When we bring up the word "money" what kind of feelings come to mind? (**Leader note:** We've included the Feelings Wheel on the last page of this Small Group Leader Guide to help make it a little easier to talk about complex emotions.)
4. Give examples of ways money can be used in positive ways, and give examples of ways money can be used in negative ways.
5. What is the difference between needing money and having an unhealthy obsession with it? How can you tell when you have moved to an unhealthy obsession? (**Leader note:** A good indication that money is becoming an unhealthy interest is when it leads you to compromise on values or your character. We are not talking about an interest in money that would help meet basic needs.)
6. Read *"For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs" 1 Timothy 6:10 NIV.* What are the griefs that come from an unhealthy love of money? (Examples: stress, shame, greed, unwise choices, hurting people you love, anxiety.)

7. **Upperclassman Question** Read Mark 8:36 NIV: *“What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?”* What does it look like for a person to gain money but lose a part of themselves in the process?
8. **Upperclassman Question** Are there changes you need to make in your attitude towards money? If so, what?
9. Wanting money isn't bad. But there are some things money can't do. What are some things that money can't buy? How might that change the way you view money?
10. What are some things you are doing right now to earn money? How can you be responsible with the money you have? (**Leader's note:** depending on the demographics of your group and the different grade levels represented, this question may be asked and answered differently. You may start with the question “When you get your first job how can you...”)

TRY THIS

One way to resist money becoming an unhealthy obsession is to practice gratitude. Write a thank you note to a parent or guardian or another adult who helps provide for your financial needs. If there isn't anyone doing this for you, tell your small group leader, so you can get the help you need.



HAPPY

SAD

MAD

SCARED

SURPRISED

ISOLATED

ABANDONED

INDIFFERENT

APATHETIC

REMORSEFUL

ASHAMED

POWERLESS

GRIEF

DEVASTATED

EMPTY

DISAPPOINTED

UNCOMFORTABLE

AVOIDING

GROSSED OUT

AWFUL

DISAPPROVING

HUMILIATED

SALTY

LET DOWN

HATEFUL

ANGRY

FRUSTRATED

AGGRESSIVE

TRIGGERED

SCHEMATIC

OFFENDED

PROVOKED

HOSTILE

ANNOYED

IRRITATED

FURIOUS

ENRAGED

RESENTFUL

VIOLATED

BETRAYED

DISRESPECTED

BITTER

OUTRAGED

EMBARRASSED

LOATHING

NAUSEATED

JUDGMENTAL

RIDICULED

WORTHLESS

VULNERABLE

THREATENED

SKEPTICAL

WORRIED

OVERWHELMED

EXCLUDED

ALIENATED

INADEQUATE

INFERIOR

TERRIFIED

FRIGHTENED

STARTLED

AMAZED

EXCITED

CONFUSED

INTERESTED

PEACEFUL

OPTIMISTIC

ENTHUSIASTIC

ACCEPTED

PROUD

JOYFUL

TRUSTING

CONTENT

OPEN

SENSITIVE

FREE

CONFIDENT

IMPORTANT

FULFILLED

RESPECTED

THRILLED

PASSIONATE

INSPIRED

HOPEFUL

THANKFUL

LOVING

INQUISITIVE

CURIOUS

LOSS FOR WORDS

THROWN

ENERGETIC

EAGER

AWESTRUCK

ASTONISHED

SHOOK

STUNNED