

Welcome Your World LifeGroup Leader Guide

Take New Steps of Faith on Our Adventure With God

Session #4

From Anxiety to Trust

Key Point: We can move from anxiety to trust as we learn that God delights in providing for us, meeting both our spiritual and material needs.

Key Scripture: So don't be afraid, little flock. For it gives your Father great happiness to give you the Kingdom. Sell your possessions and give to those in need. This will store up treasure for you in heaven! And the purses of heaven never get old or develop holes. Your treasure will be safe; no thief can steal it and no moth can destroy it. Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be. Luke 12: 32-34 NLT

Leader preparation:

- * Review main points from Session 3 and be prepared to recap
- * Review next steps from session 3 from "this week" for discussion
- * Read chapter 4 of True Riches book
- * Watch video session 4
- * Pray daily for your group members

Welcome And What To Expect:

1. Introduce session
2. Go over any group housekeeping
3. Review of Session 3: From Coveting to Contentment

Last week we discussed the human belief that if we had more, we'd be happy. Following Jesus out of covetous into contentment takes a change of heart and change of behavior.

When we realize that knowing God and investing in his kingdom is true wealth, when we budget and create margin, and set limits, our hearts move into contentment.

In what way have these truths helped you find greater contentment in the past week? (Leader be prepared to share your experience first).

Open In Prayer

Let's Connect:

In smaller groups answer this question:

Share one thing you enjoy doing to relax after a long, hard week?

(Leader share your answer first. Example: Going out to brunch with my friends at Nudy's).

Watch Video:

Pastor Haley introduces us to a topic we are all interested in, moving from anxiety to trust in the area of our finances. Be sure to take notes and write down anything that stands out to you.

Group discussion questions:

1. Read Matthew 6:28-34

"And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet, I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow it is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you- you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat? Or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' for the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

(It may be best to divide these questions among smaller groups and share answers with the larger group for the sake of time)

* From this passage, what common needs cause us to be anxious and worry?

* What untrue beliefs lead us to worry?

* As followers of Jesus, Pastor Haley challenged us not to let what is common become normal. What is Jesus' antidote to worry about our needs?

* In the book, True Riches, the authors write, "Do you trust God enough not to worry about your circumstances? Worry is really just a form of idolatry, because every time you worry, you are saying, 'It all depends on me.'" How might worry really be a form of idolatry?

* If Jesus' teachings on money and possessions are meant to lead us into a deeper relationship and reliance upon him, in what ways do Jesus' teachings in Matthew 6 do this?

2. Based on the following verses, how do we know that we can trust God?

"God is not human, that he should lie, not a human being, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?"

Who would like to share a testimony of a time when God demonstrated to you that he can be trusted?

3. Matthew 6 is an invitation to make seeking and serving God the highest priority of our daily lives. When we live a life of trust in God, everything changes. Our lives look different from the world around us. Discuss what might your life look like if:

You really understood that your spiritual needs supersede your material needs?

You sought growth in Christlikeness during your times of suffering and trouble?

You reoriented your daily life toward God's will and mission?

4. "So don't be afraid, little flock. For it gives your Father great happiness to give you the Kingdom. Sell your possessions and give to those in need. This will store up treasure for you in heaven! And the purses of heaven never get old or develop holes. Your treasure will be safe; no thief can steal it and no moth can destroy it. Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be. Luke 12: 32-34

Trusting in God for our needs and making God first leads us to a life of generosity. Worry about how our needs will be met will keep us from giving generously. What in the above scripture speaks to our anxiety over finances?

5. Corrie Ten Boom, a Dutch Christian who worked to save the Jews from Hitler's tyranny, wrote, "Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God."

"God's grace grants us the freedom to be generous to others in trust of God's ultimate provision, and in gratitude for his generosity toward us." (True Riches)

What in the above quotes encourages you to trust your God instead of worrying?

Personal Application:

Let's go back to the question, "how are my finances shaping my heart?" Write down one area of financial concern or fear and prayerfully give it over to God, expressing your trust in his loving provision.

This Week:

Take 5 minutes a day to meditate on Luke 12:32-34 (below). In prayer, cast your cares on the Lord.

Memory Verse:

"So don't be afraid, little flock. For it gives your Father great happiness to give you the Kingdom. Sell your possessions and give to those in need. This will store up treasure for you in heaven! And the purses of heaven never get old or develop holes. Your treasure will be safe; no thief can steal it and no moth can destroy it. Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be. Luke 12: 32-34

Next Week:

We will find out how each of us holds the answer to the deepest needs of our neighbors.

Prayer:

Leave time to pray for the needs of the group. Pray for one another in smaller groups of 3 or 4 or pass prayer requests.

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