

## MONEY & FAITH

### Summary

#### **Opening Prayer**

**Introduction:** It's well known that the period that begins with the Friday after Thanksgiving is one of the most lucrative commercial times of the year. We often hear Christians critique the materialism and consumerism of the holiday period, and although there is truth in this criticism, that is not the focus of tonight's discussions. There are 3-4 times more verses in the Bible about money than there are about prayer, which means we should probably talk about money and faith more than we do. I hope that through our discussions, we'll gain even more clarity and self-awareness than we have already about how we think and what we believe about money.

#### **Questions for Tables** (small group discussion):

- People have different styles of shopping. How do you typically shop?
- What are your priorities, and how does that affect your budget?
- One study found that for most young adults, money is related to a desire for independence, comfort, security, or contentment. Which of these words resonates most strongly with you, or is there another thing for you that money is more strongly related to?
- What would you do if you unexpectedly inherited \$100,000 from a distant relative?
- A sociological study found that most young adults feel like they're broke, whether they are actually out of money or not. What do you think might contribute to this feeling?
- How does your faith affect the way you think about money and what you do with it?

**Concluding remarks/discussion:** summarize table discussions focused on the last three questions, using the answers given to the last question as a platform for further discussion. Ask the group what other questions should be asked about faith and money. Emphasize that money—as are all other helpful things in life—is ultimately a gift from God, not merely a product of our own efforts. Ask how we can keep that understanding alive in our minds and hearts.

#### **Closing Prayer**

#### **Evaluation**

When is enough enough in Church?

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