



We are maxed-out on credit cards and headed to marriage counseling because of money stress. All while making more money than most people in the world. And we don't think we have a problem. Money blindness leads to money sickness. And then we have stories like the widow who gives her last two pennies away. It challenges us to re-imagine what it means to be "blessed." And it calls us to ask: after we give our hearts, minds, bodies, and souls to the Lord (in baptism and in service), what can we give next?

These questions are intended to deepen your experience of the message. Use them for your personal or family study time, or with an open Bible as you share the good news with your neighbor.

Group Introduction: "On a scale of 1-10, how much is money involved in your personal stress? How often does it appear in your family arguments? Please share."

Helpful Resource:

Timothy Keller sermon "Money."
<https://podcast.gospelinlife.com/e/money-1625595592/>

A TALE OF TWO IDENTITIES. Read Luke 12:13-21. What do you notice in this story? Why is he called a fool? How would you respond if someone asked if this parable applies to you? **Follow up:** Read Mark 12:41-44. What do you notice in this story? Why is she celebrated? What makes this widow different from the rich fool?

MONEY BLINDNESS. Read Luke 12:15. Greed is something most people do not think is a problem for them. Why does Jesus say "Watch out?" **Follow Up:** Greed is the excessive concern for, worry about, love of, and need for money and possessions. How would you know if you suffer from it?

MONEY SICKNESS. The five signs of money sickness are gloating, worry, resentment, chasing after it, and inability to give it away. Which of these most hits home with you? How willing are you to allow others to help you recover?

COMPARE. Nearly 1/3rd of American households making \$100K or more say they can't afford what they really need. Discuss.

THE GIVER. Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-5. Describe the characteristics of the Macedonian churches. What could prompt them to think this way? What does it mean they first "gave themselves to the Lord"? **Read 2 Corinthians 8:9-15.** How is Jesus the ultimate "giver" and "gift"? How does he serve as the pattern for us as givers?

THE CROSS. The cross describes our way of life—one of service, sacrifice, and surrender. Where can you see the cross in your financial life? Discuss.

IDENTITY MARKERS. Clark Dickerson's three points are (1) God is the owner of all; (2) we are stewards, not owners; and (3) we are blessed to bless others. How can you apply these points in your own life?

COMMITMENT. As an individual, couple, or family, I/We resolve to choose the path of cheerful surrender, avoid greed, and be a greater blessing to others. We will give _____ (amount) to _____ (cause) next year. Sign name: