Entrusted

Treasure: Where Your Heart Is

Icebreaker Question: *What's something you once really wanted to buy, but after purchasing it, realized it wasn't nearly as satisfying as you expected?*

HEAD (Truth – What does God's Word say?)

1. In Matthew 6:19–21, Jesus contrasts earthly treasures with heavenly treasures. What distinguishes the two, and why does that matter for how we live?

2. Jesus says, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (v. 21). What does this teach us about the relationship between our priorities and our hearts?

3. In verse 24, Jesus personifies money (mamōnas) as a competing master. Why do you think Jesus describes money this way instead of simply warning against greed?

4. Read Mark 12:41–44. What does Jesus' observation of the widow's offering teach us about evaluating generosity beyond the dollar amount?

HEART (Reflection – What is God revealing to you?)

1. Why do you think money and possessions can so easily become sources of security, identity, or satisfaction instead of God?

2. If someone looked at how you spend your money, time, and energy, what might they conclude is most important to you? Would that accurately reflect what you want to value?

3. Ecclesiastes 5:10 teaches that whoever loves money never has enough. Where do you see the temptation to continually want more in our culture or your own life?

4. Jesus teaches that we cannot serve both God and money. What are some warning signs that money is beginning to influence our decisions more than our devotion to Christ?

HANDS (Application – What will you do?)

1. Which of these three discipleship practices needs the most attention in your life right now, and why?

- Intentional generosity (Proverbs 3:9–10), Cultivating contentment (Hebrews 13:5), Prioritizing God's kingdom (Matthew 6:33)

2. Is there a financial habit, spending priority, or attitude toward possessions that you believe God is challenging you to reconsider?

3. What is one practical way you can demonstrate that God owns everything and you're simply managing what He's entrusted to you? What is one specific step you can take this week to live with more open hands and use God's provision to bless someone else?

BASIC GROUP GUIDELINES

Though we call these Basic Group Guidelines, these are also essential in all relationships and environments. These should be observed whether in 1-on-1 conversation or in a group discussion.

- Guidelines give boundaries for people to operate within.
- They help with the flow and pace of the discussions.
- They help us value one another.
- They help people to be more comfortable sharing deep and meaningful things.

Safe Group – This is a safe group. Confidentiality is key, what is said in the group stays in the group. Be aware how you are affecting the environment: words, actions, non-verbal communication. This needs to be a place where people feel comfortable opening up and sharing.

No Crosstalk – Be considerate of others as they are sharing. No side conversations, checking phone, responding to text or email, etc.

Listen – Let's value one another by listening to what is being shared. Allow a pause after someone has shares to allow them to finish and others to consider what was said. Eye contact and body posture play key roles in creating a positive or negative group environment.

No Rescuing or Fixing – We are not here to fix each other; Jesus does that part. Avoid the tendency to rescue when someone is struggling to get the words out or share struggles or conviction.

Use "I" Statements – It's easy to talk about the issues of others or respond with "we", "us", "the church". But for us to grow as disciples, and build relationship, we want to use "I" statements.

Don't Overtalk – We want to create time for all members of the group to participate in the discussion. Be careful not to always be the first responder or regularly give long responses.

Fight for Relationship – It's not 'if' conflict or hurt feeling will happen, but 'when'. We commit to fight <u>for</u> relationship with each other. Go to that person and share your struggle or seek wise advice if you are not sure how to handle the conflict.

