

Warm- Up Questions

1. What was your first job? What was your first salaried job?
2. If employed, what is your current job? How is this job different from your first salaried job?
3. What has been your favorite job and why?

Warm-Up Activity

Before your group meets, gather \$4.00 the following way: 1 \$1.00 bill, 4 quarters, 10 dimes, 15 nickels and 25 pennies.

Choose a few people, and time them one-at-a-time as they make correct change. (*Whoever is the fastest wins the \$4.00*).

Example: Make the correct change for:

- a. Make change after spending \$2.27 (*change = \$1.73*)
- b. Make change after spending \$1.79 (*change = \$2.21*)
- c. Make change after spending \$3.17 (*change = \$.83*)
- d. Make change after spending \$2.91 (*change = \$1.09*)

Can You Relate?

Interested in money? If we pay attention to music, books, films, documentaries, or the news we will see money is one of the most popular topics of our society. Interestingly, the topic of money was apparently plenty popular around 900 B.C. as well, as King Solomon wrote and gathered nuggets of wisdom for the Book of Proverbs. This week's Proverbs passages focus on how we are to handle our money, the proper way to obtain and maintain money, and the dangers of debt. We are wise to heed Solomon's advice, and God's direction.

1. Read Proverbs 3:9-10. What does it mean to 'honor' God in general?
Why should this extend to our finances?
2. Read Deuteronomy 8:17-18. After 40 years of desert wanderings, God is preparing His people to enter His Promised Land. What is His reminder to them?

From where does your money come? To whom does it belong?

3. What are your personal 'first fruits'?

If we are called to honor God with the first fruits of our labor, discuss ways this discipline is exercised properly.

4. What does God promise to those who honor Him with their finances? (3:10)

What is a modern equivalent of a barn filled to overflowing and a vat brimming over with new wine?

Can someone share a testimony of this verse at work in your life?

5. Read Proverbs 13:11. Give a few examples of how money gained hastily (by fraud) is most likely spent.
Give a few examples of how money gained by honest means is usually be spent.
6. Read Proverbs 14:23. Paraphrase this verse and explain exactly what Solomon is teaching.

Can a group member share a situation in which someone talked and planned big but never accomplished anything? What were the results?

7. Read Proverbs 22:7. What warning and implied command are found in this verse?

If you have struggled with debt in the past and overcame that situation, please share with the group your experience.

If you are currently struggling, what are some tangible steps you can take this week to begin to solve this problem?

(For further conversation, discuss Proverbs 17:18 and Romans 13:8).

Live it Out!

Throughout Proverbs, as well as the entire Bible, God shares wisdom and instruction on how to wisely handle our money. While money is a necessary part of life, there are dangers associated with it. What are some of those dangers?

Discuss the dangers of equating wealth with wisdom, and how we see this in our current culture.

Discuss the godly way in which wealth and wisdom can go hand in hand, and ways we see this in our current culture.

What has God taught you about your own financial state through the study of Proverbs? What are you doing right? What are you doing wrong? Discuss as a group any action steps necessary to align your finances with God's will and commands.

Encourage your group to commit time to pray for one another, encourage one another, meet each other's needs, fellowship together and interceded for each other as the Lord leads. Encourage them to continue to meet and to return for the next scheduled gathering.

