

DEADLY SE7EN

Week 2: Greed

Focus Scripture

Luke 12:15-21

Main Point

The kingdom of God, not money or possessions, should be the most important thing in our lives.

Introduction

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

Complete the following sentence: "If I had more money, I would ..."

Would it surprise you to learn that there are more than 2000 verses in Scripture that deal with money and possessions? Why does God care so much about money?

Given how much God cares about money, why do you think we don't like to talk about it much in the church?

Why does God care about money? Money matters to God because our money often reveals what has first place in our hearts. All too often, money gets in the way of keeping our focus on God. Unfortunately, many people view money and success as security or happiness, when really only God can bring those things.

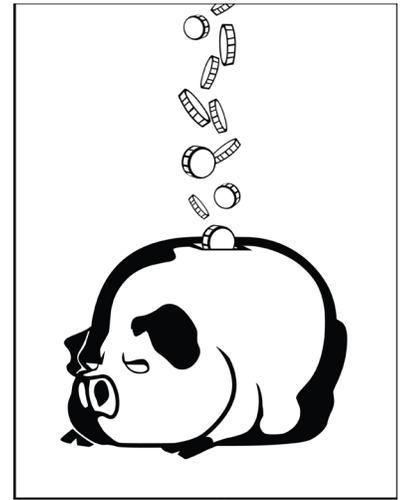
Understanding

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

People give priority to whatever they think is most important. Often their priorities are unselfish and include a variety of good causes. Other people are so selfish that they give priority to what will best serve them, such as possessions or personal pleasure. The only true unselfish priority is doing as Jesus taught. God wants people to give priority to His kingdom. Beginning with a warning Jesus gave about worrying over things that don't matter, Luke 12 centers on the basic issue of the kingdom of God—commitment to the lordship of Jesus Christ.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ LUKE 12:15-21.

If any of us were called to choose between the kingdom of God and possessions, we would choose the kingdom of God. But sometimes figuring how to live that out in our day-to-day lives is hard. Jesus warned all the people listening to Him that they shouldn't be greedy because there is more to life than gaining possessions. Jesus focused the crowd's attention on a rich man. Most likely, no one in the crowd was wealthy. However, the point clearly applied to these listeners, and it applies to us too.



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Have you ever received extra money that you didn't expect? What did you do with the extra money?

Why do you think Jesus pictured greed as something for us to guard against? Has greediness ever sneaked up on you without you realizing it?

How would you answer the question of the rich man in verse 17?

Why does working for God's kingdom actually benefit us better than a selfish plan?

What happens when we flip-flop our priority and give it to possessions instead of to God's kingdom?

Why do possessions sometimes seem to be more important than they are?

How can we make sure that the money we own doesn't own us?

What is wrong with thinking that money provides a way to live a lavish lifestyle?

Application

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

Rejecting the pressures around us and serving only God is no small task. Everything in our culture encourages us to pursue our own selfish desires. But God's plan for His children is radically different, as Jesus taught in Luke 12. Ask God to help you set your priorities straight. Instead of following the world's ways, like the Pharisees or the rich man, pursue the kingdom of God by trusting in Him.

How does your checkbook, bank account, or schedule reveal your priorities? Are these things good examples of showing a person's real priorities? Why or why not?

In what ways does love require us to give priority to God's kingdom?

What does your life say about the priorities and values of your heart? Is the kingdom of God first priority in your life? Are you focused on the temporary or the eternal?

Name some personal adjustments or sacrifices that you might need to make in order to put God's kingdom first in your life. Is there an adjustment you need to make now? If so, how can you start?

Pray

Thank God for offering us so much more than anything the world offers. Thank Him for the promise of spiritual treasures that we'll enjoy for eternity. Pray over your group this week, specifically that they would depend completely on God and trust Him this week.