



## GUIDE FOR GROUP STUDY: the week of October 14th

This study is designed to help your community group grow as disciples of Jesus Christ. There are three dimensions to following Jesus.



**UP:** growing in relationship with God

**IN:** growing in relationship with other followers of Jesus

**OUT:** growing in relationship with the world around us as we join God in God's mission

### Get Started:

What was one of the most important lessons about money you were taught as a child?



### **UP: Connect with God through Spending Time in His Word**

Read aloud the passages for the week: Exodus 20:15 and Mark 10:17–25. Allow a few moments to silently reflect on what you heard. Underline or note words or phrases that seem meaningful.

1. Exodus 20:15 says, "You shall not steal." Can you describe a time when you've had something stolen from you or have been taken advantage of financially? What emotions did this stir up in you when it happened? How do you feel about this now?
2. This commandment doesn't only refer to "smash and grab" theft but extends to business ethics and manipulating the less educated or poor. Furthermore, slacking off at work, fudging expense reports, stealing from the warehouse, taking money from petty cash, falsifying sign-in sheets, etc., are all ways people rob their employers<sup>1</sup>. What forms of "stealing" do you witness most often?
3. How does this command suggest a new, more fulfilling way of living for Israel? How is it a life-giving command for us today?
4. Re-read Mark 10:21–22. It would have been common for both the pagan culture, as well as the Jews, to view wealth as a sign of God's pleasure with a person. In some ways a person could rest assured of their place in the Age to Come if they had been blessed financially in this life<sup>2</sup>. Why do you think the man is saddened by Jesus's response? (*Is he in love with his possessions? Is it more related to crushed pride?*)
5. What are some markers of "success" in our culture (Broader American culture as well as Colorado Springs)? What are some markers of "spiritual success" or "spiritual security" in American churches?

<sup>1</sup>Kevin DeYoung, *The Good News We Almost Forgot* (Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2010), 200.  
<sup>2</sup>N.T. Wright, *Mark for Everyone* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2011), 137.

6. Re-Read Mark 10:23–24. What do you think about Jesus’s declaration regarding the camel and the eye of the needle? In Matthew 6:24, Jesus announces that it is impossible to serve both God and money. What is meant by this?
7. One of the practices the church has engaged in for centuries is tithing. In this discipline we return a portion of our income to God in an effort to loosen our grip on material things. Tithing frees us to rest in God’s provision and escape the never-ending thirst for more. In what areas of your life do you currently need to rely on God’s provision?



**Out: : Connect with the World Around Us (Join God in His Mission)**

As a group, discuss how you could use your material possessions to bless others in the coming week. (*Could you donate clothing, money or food to an organization serving struggling families? Could you drop a grocery gift-card in the mailbox of a neighbor who is currently struggling financially? Could you pool resources as a group to do something?*)



**IN: Connect with Each Other**

Close your time together by praying as a group.

Pray that God would make you aware of the places in your life where you cling to material goods. Pray that your wealth would not get in the way of your engaging with God’s kingdom. Pray for your eyes to be opened to the needs of those around you. Pray for God to reorder your desires so you would seek the welfare of others, not just yourself.