

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE WEEK SIX

IN GOLD WE TRUST

ICEBREAKER: What was your first job?

STORY: Who is sharing their story? 3 positives and 3 negatives that have impacted who you are today.

LEADER: We began a new series called In Gold We Trust. Ryan talked about 4 money groups: Living in Debt, Living Paycheck to Paycheck, Living Comfortably, and Living Rich.

QUESTION: Share one of the first things you bought with your own money.

READ: Luke 12:12-15

QUESTION: Why and how are we naturally drawn toward greed without even realizing it? *It begins in our heart. We all want more and once we get more, we want even more. We are drawn toward stuff and status. We are tempted to measure our life by our gold.*

QUESTION: How do we justify our craving for more? *We say "Once we get whatever more is we'll give it away, or support a great cause...We can live with generous intentions believing we'd give more if we had **a lot** more.*

LEADER: Ryan suggested that we all need a plan to deal with our natural tendency toward greed. He mentioned four parts to a possible plan.

READ: Proverbs 27:17

QUESTION: Step one was Accountability. Do you have someone you can talk to about your finances? Why are we reluctant to do that?

READ: I Timothy 6:6

QUESTION: The second part of the plan was to focus on being content. How does being grateful relate to being contented? Describe someone you know who lives a life of contentment.

READ: I Timothy 6:7-8

QUESTION: The third part of the plan was giving. Tell about a time someone sacrificially gave something to you. Ryan's challenge was "Don't let what you **don't have** keep you from giving what **you do have.**"

READ: 2nd Corinthians 8:1-6

QUESTION: Finally, Ryan encouraged us to budget for generosity. Did your parents budget? Have you ever had a personal budget? What was challenging about it? How was your budget helpful?

QUESTION: How is budgeting helpful in being a person of generosity?

LEADER PRAYER: *God thank you for what we have. We want to live lives of contentment. Help us be better givers of ourselves and what you have given us. Show us something we can give away. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

LEADER: Who will share their story next week? Baptism is coming up Palm Sunday Weekend. Pray about getting baptized this Spring.