



small groups Discussion Guide



Greed vs. Gratitude

Luke 12:13-21

Ice Breaker (5 minutes)

Discuss

How much did you make at your very first job?

Lesson Review (30 minutes)

Read Luke 12:13-21

Andy encouraged three habits:

1. Be Grateful, Not Greedy

The Myth Of More

Greed says, "I'll never be happy. I'll always want more."

Envy says, "I'll be happy as long as I have more than you."

Discuss

- All of us have felt the pang of envy to some degree. What kinds of things do you envy most? Cars? Houses? Talent? Strong marriages? Well-behaved children? What kind of success can you see in others that is most likely to make you dissatisfied with your own?

The Wisdom Of Gratefulness

Discuss

- You probably know someone who has much but shows little gratitude. But what about those people you know who have little and never complain? Who do you know who always seems grateful, even in hard circumstances?
- After you tell your group about them, consider sending them a note this week to tell them how their gratitude has blessed you.

2. Be Generous, Not Stingy

The Scrooge Syndrome

Andy said, "It's fine to get, but it's finer yet to give."

Discuss

- Where are you giving? Don't share amounts, but encourage everyone in your group to practice generosity. Tell who (what people or organizations) you regularly give resources to.

3. Be Faithful, Not Presumptuous

Like the man in the parable, Andy told a story about a family who came face-to-face with death and it changed their attitude toward God. Jennifer Stolpa prayed more faithfully and fervently while she waited to be rescued than she ever had before. Riches are not evil, but they can easily rob us of that kind of desperate dependence on God.

Discuss

- What blessings do you tend to take for granted? How can you practice being grateful for those things?

Application

Discuss *(20 minutes)*

- Do you feel that there is there some way in which financial issues are keeping you from being fully alive? Issues like debt, greed, envy, or worry about having enough? Confess that to your group.
- What steps can you take to address those issues? Consider some ideas like starting to tithe, taking Financial Peace University, or offering more prayers of thanks. Which of these, or other ideas, will you undertake this week?