

The background of the slide is composed of several overlapping squares in shades of olive green and yellow. On the right side, there is a vertical illustration of a tree. The tree's trunk and roots are rendered in dark brown and black lines, with some areas filled with a textured, painterly style in shades of green and yellow. The foliage is represented by dark, thin, curved lines that suggest leaves or branches. The overall aesthetic is artistic and somewhat abstract.

Session 1

Financial Stewardship: A Biblical Foundation

Session 1

Reflective Question:

If you could walk away from this seminar with one new skill, insight, or feeling, what would it be?

Quotable:

"Money never made a man happy yet, nor will it. The more a man has, the more he wants. Instead of filling a vacuum, it makes one."

- Benjamin Franklin

Why Making Cent\$?

Which of the following reasons resonates most closely for why you are here today?

- A. You want to know what God says about finances.
- B. You feel overwhelmed by debt, spending habits, or are constantly behind on your payments i.e. you feel like you are drowning.
- C. You want to take this opportunity to learn how to become a better steward of God's resources.

All of these are good reasons for being here!

If we were all perfect, we would not need God or need to know His plan for our lives. But we are not perfect and all knowing. We can make quite a few mistakes if we are left to ourselves! God likens us to sheep who need a shepherd. We need guidance. It doesn't matter if you are really struggling or sailing right along - God wants to meet you right where you are and take you to where you were created to go!

God Has A Plan For Our Lives

Jeremiah 29:11-13

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. 12 Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. 13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all of your heart."

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The World's Thinking is: "NOW!"

It's all around us: fast food, the Internet, liposuction. Do it now, get it now and worry about the consequences later. For whatever reason, the amount of dollars we have, the amount of "stuff" we own, or the power we can wield still "wows" people. God's economy is quite different.

Matthew 6:19-21

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is there your heart will be also."

Reflective Question:

Which one of these myths are you most susceptible to living out?

Three Big Cultural Myths

1. Things Bring Happiness.
2. Debt is Expected and Unavoidable.
3. A Little More Money Will Solve All Our Problems.

God's Advice is for the Long Haul

God gives us advice which stands the test of time. He wants us to have a long-term view on life and to keep our eyes on the prize - which is eternal life with him.

Matthew 6:33-34

"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

Proverbs 28:19-20

"He who works his land will have abundant food, but the one who chases fantasies will have his fill of poverty. 20 A faithful man will be richly blessed, but one eager to get rich will not go unpunished."



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The Great Commandments

Luke 10:27

“Love the Lord your God with all of your Heart, Soul, Mind & Strength. And Love your neighbor as yourself.”

Matthew 22:36-40

“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” 37 Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

Reflective Question:

*To what degree do you identify
God with a loving father?*

How do we do that?

Jesus draws the parallel of a loving father caring for his children, not wanting them to be harmed. This is the reason for his instruction.

Matthew 6:24

“No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.”

Hebrews 13:5

“Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, ‘Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.’”

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Quotable:

*"Don't tell me where your priorities are.
Show me where you spend your money
and I'll tell you what they are."*
- James W. Frick

Reflective Question:

*When is it easiest for you to die to
your desires? What factors allow you
to enter into this?*



God's Vision for Our Lives: To Experience and Express Love

What is God's goal for giving us his instruction? Love. Love is who God is. It is the most important part of life. Everything in the Bible is given to us to show us how to love God and one another better.

As we look at managing our finances better, we will be following the scriptural command to live lives of love. This is how we find the abundant life that God has promised us.

Ephesians 5:14-17

"For it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said: Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you. 15 Be very careful, then, how you live, not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is."

We Must Die to Our Desires

When we seek God with all of our hearts and life lives of devotion to Him, He is able to work in and through our lives. But we must die to self-leadership and seek after God's plans for us if we are going to experience the abundant life. This is especially true when it comes to money!

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1 Timothy 6:6-10

“But godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. 8 But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. 9 People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.”

Reflective Question:

Why is it that we never seem to be satisfied with the amount of money or wealth that we currently have?

Ecclesiastes 5:10

“Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is meaningless.”

God Begins Transforming Us!

As we surrender control of our lives over to God’s lordship, He begins transforming us. We become new creatures with new devotion, priorities, and identities.

2 Corinthians 5:17

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come.”

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Quotable:

"A wise man should have money in his head, but not in his heart."

- Jonathan Swift

Reflective Question:

How do you participate with God in the decision making process?

How do you know when you've heard from Him?



Ecclesiastes 5 13-19

"I have seen a grievous evil under the sun: wealth hoarded to the harm of its owner, 14 or wealth lost through some misfortune, so that when he has a son there is nothing left for him. 15 Naked a man comes from his mother's womb, and as he comes, so he departs. He takes nothing from his labor that he can carry in his hand. 16 This too is a grievous evil: As a man comes, so he departs, and what does he gain, since he toils for the wind? 17 All his days he eats in darkness, with great frustration, affliction and anger. 18 Then I realized that it is good and proper for a man to eat and drink, and to find satisfaction in his toilsome labor under the sun during the few days of life God has given him for this is his lot. 19 Moreover, when God gives any man wealth and possessions, and enables him to enjoy them, to accept his lot and be happy in his work this is a gift of God. 20 He seldom reflects on the days of his life, because God keeps him occupied with gladness of heart."

Decision Making and Priorities

We all have a set of priorities. We all make decisions. The things you chose to do demonstrates what is important to you. When you chose one thing over another you show that it has a higher priority. Being a good steward of the resources God gives us means making decisions. We are not robots. We participate in the process by making decisions. Thankfully God has given us instruction as to what He wants our priorities to look like and what He would like us to have as the most important aspects of our lives.

Joshua 24:14 15

"But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."
