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PRAYER

Thank you, Lord, for the money and wealth that you have given me. I want to be a faithful steward of what you have given me. I repent of ways that I have idolised money. Purge me from the spirit of mammon (the worship and adoration of money). I commit my money and all you have given me to you. Guide me on how and where I should use it and to whom I should give. My finances belong to you, in Jesus' name. Amen.

-Adapted from **PrayerUnlimited**



You receive \$96,000. What would you do with it?

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²⁴ "No one can serve two masters, for 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 God and money. ²⁵ "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷ And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? ²⁸ And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹ yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ³⁰ But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? ³¹ Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³² For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. ³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

³⁴ "Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

MATTHEW 6:24-34

"It's no secret that the Bible teaches us to live our lives a little differently than the world does. And that's especially true when it comes to money.

The Bible says we're to practice contentment and not covet other people's stuff (Hebrews 13:5, Exodus 20:17). But advertisers make the life you see in their commercials so appealing. You feel incomplete, so you hand over the cash, hoping to buy that happiness.

The Bible says we're to worship God above all else and not worship idols (**Exodus 20:3-4**, **Matthew 6:24**). But people often turn their material possessions—especially money—into gods, without even realizing it.

And when it comes to saving, giving, and debt, it's no different. The world says one thing, but the Bible points to a better way—a way that glorifies God and actually helps us live fuller, more joyful lives (**Galatians 6:8**).

Hey, we get it. It's tough trying to resist the world's ways when it comes to money. We've all experienced temptation in that area and buckled at some point. That's why keeping God's desire for our finances front of mind is so important."

-Dave Ramsey, God's Ways of Managing Money

■ GUIDE QUESTIONS

(NUMBERED ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF DEPTH AND READINESS TO SHARE)

- 1. On a scale from 1-10 (1 = none at all; 10 = always consistent), how would you rate your capacity to honour God with your money? Why have you rated yourself this way?
- 2. Do you worry a lot about money and provision? If you do, what are the thoughts that often surface? How are you now in regard to your concern about money and provision?
- 3. Matthew 6:24 talks about how you can only serve either God or money. Do you let money serve you? Or do you let money rule you? Why have you answered this way?
- 4. What does it mean to seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all things will be added to you (verse 33)? Do you seek first his kingdom and righteousness in your own life?
- 5. If you are not yet a follower of Jesus, would you be willing to acknowledge him as your God, enable him to have all authority as the one who calls the shots in your life, and as the God who loves you? Would you like to enter into a saving relationship with God through Jesus?

Ask your Life Group leader to lead you in prayer to receive Christ. You can pray this prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe you died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite you to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow you as my Lord and Saviour. In Jesus' name, Amen.

PRAYER								