



## PRAYER

*"Gracious and loving God, we come before You acknowledging that all we have comes from Your hand. As we gather to learn about Your design for our finances, we submit our resources and financial decisions to You. May we seek Your kingdom first, trusting in Your provision. Guide our hearts and minds as we explore how to honor You with our wealth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen."*

## OPENING QUESTION (OPTIONAL)

"What is the most ridiculous thing you've ever spent money on, and did you ever regret it?"



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## WORD

*"And he said to his disciples, 'Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you. Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.'"*

### [Luke 12:22-34 \(ESV\)](#)

In Luke 12:22-34, Jesus addresses the anxiety we often feel about our material needs. He points to the ravens and the lilies, simple creatures of God's creation, to illustrate His provision and care. As Charles Spurgeon once reflected, "Our anxiety does not empty tomorrow of its sorrows, but only empties today of its strengths." This passage reminds us that God's care for us surpasses even our most basic needs and that our worth in His eyes is immeasurable.

In the context of modern Brisbane, we face various financial pressures and societal expectations. The rising cost of living, social media comparisons, and the relentless pursuit of financial freedom can lead to anxiety and misplaced priorities. Jesus' words challenge us to shift our focus from temporary material concerns to the eternal kingdom of God. Seeking His kingdom first transforms our attitude towards finances, prompting us to live generously and trust in His provision.

Applying these principles in 2024 involves practical steps like budgeting with generosity in mind, supporting community initiatives, and helping those in need. By doing so, we align our financial decisions with kingdom values, creating a community that reflects God's love and provision.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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

1. How does Jesus' teaching in Luke 12:22-34 challenge your current attitude towards money and possessions?
2. What are some practical ways you can "seek His kingdom" in your financial decisions?
3. How might living with less anxiety about finances change your daily life and relationships?
4. Can you share a time when you trusted God with a financial need and saw His provision?
5. What steps can our lifegroup take to support each other in trusting God with our resources?

**"Lord Jesus, we come to You, recognizing our need for Your guidance in every area of our lives, including our finances. We confess that we have often been anxious and placed our trust in material wealth rather than in You. Today, we surrender our resources and financial plans to You. We invite You to be Lord over our lives, our decisions, and our future. Fill us with Your peace and help us to seek Your kingdom first. Thank You for Your love and provision. In Your mighty name, Amen."**