



STUDY GUIDE

February 5, 2023

Message Series:
Message Title:
Teaching Pastor:

A Better Way
To Handle Money
Brian Hughes

Warm-up/Icebreaker: (10 min.)

What is the first money memory you have as a kid or teen?

Pray:

Dear Lord, we know that You talk about money and stewardship more than any other topic in Your Word. That alone should make us take pause and consider what our hearts pursue. We pray that You prepare us to hear from You. We need direction and guidance. We want to serve You only and put our hope in You, the one who richly provides for us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Get Started: (20-30 min.)

"The first step before we can come up with an effective method for managing money, is to have an effective mindset for all of the money - however little or much - comes through our hands. I can't tell you how important this is. Mindset matters more than method. What's our mindset? We're not the owners. God is. I don't own the money, God does. What's my role? Servant. Manager. Steward. Whatever word you use, it can't be owner." - Pastor Brian Hughes

Read Psalm 89:11, Psalm 50:10-11, and 1 Chronicles 29:11,14-16.

- Being completely honest and real, how do you feel about the idea that God is the owner of all your money? Does that make you uneasy or give you a sense of comfort? Explain.

"Here's how this really works: When a person truly gives themselves to God through making a commitment to Jesus Christ, they pledge everything they have. I commit my entire life - nothing held back, no stone unturned, no place God cannot go, no untouchables. And I don't clock in and clock out my commitment. I don't commit only in certain situations or claim notable exemptions from my commitment. It is a complete, all encompassing, no loophole covenant. All I have at my disposal - my mind, my body, my influence, my talent, my time, my stuff... and my money...it's all His. He is the master, I am His servant - the Doulos. In the most Holy of ways, I am His slave." - Pastor Brian Hughes

Read Hebrews 13:5, 1 Timothy 6:1, and Matthew 6:24.

- Based on these verses, what are some of the reasons we are commanded by God in scripture to be free from the love of money? (There are at least four or five.)
- What does contentment have to do with freedom?
- Can you cite any examples from your own life where you have either been free or in bondage to money?

Watch and Discuss Video (running time 10 min. - 15 min. discussion)

- What has been your experience with tithes and offerings? Have you discovered anything?
- Describe a time when you were able to show lavish generosity toward someone?
- What have been your strategies in developing healthy, biblical financial living?
ie. Financial Peace University

Reflect and Commit: (15 min.)

“Now here’s the good news: You can get here. I don’t care how little you make or how frugal your lifestyle already is, you can do this. It may take a little time, but if you’re diligent, disciplined, and committed to it, it will happen. And underneath of your method is the most important mindset: That God has entrusted me with money, and I need to be faithful with it. Faithful in how I use it. Faithful in how I give it. Faithful in how I think about it. That is a better way.” -Pastor Brian Hughes

Read Proverbs 3:9-10, Malachi 3:10, Luke 6:38.

- How would you summarize some of the promises that God makes related to money? What is your part and what is His part?
- What is one step you can take to line your finances up with what God says in His Word?

Gather prayer requests and pray. (5-10 min.)

Pray:

Dear God, Your Word says that You will supply all our needs according to Your riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Your Word is truth. Help us understand that all that we have and all that we are is Yours. We ask that You open up opportunities for us to give and save with the resources You provide. Help us to live more freely by paying off debt. Give us wisdom for where to reduce our expenses and teach us to be responsible with our finances. You are our provider and the owner and we trust in You. It’s in Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

For further study or help with finances, explore the following resources:

Dave Ramsey’s book *The Total Money Makeover* & course *Financial Peace University* (PCC has this course resource)

Crown Financial Ministries: <http://www.crown.org>