

6. If a curious and spiritually engaged 13-year-old asked you why it's important to be generous, how would you answer their question?

7. How is it that the love of money can lead us away from our faith and to "many griefs"?

1 Timothy 6: 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.

8. What can we do to enjoy what God has provided without becoming materialistic and holding on to our stuff too tightly?

Everything

"Don't Ruin Your Life"

Deuteronomy 14:22-29

How Not to Let Money & Possessions Rule and Ruin Your Life

1. _____ it.

Either God owns it or it owns _____.

"The sense of ownership in general is always to be encouraged. The humans are always putting up claims to ownership which sound equally funny in Heaven and in Hell and we must keep them doing so. ...And all the time the joke is that the word 'Mine' in its fully possessive sense cannot be uttered by a human being about anything." (C.S. Lewis)

We know that money can easily own us, so we are constantly trying to find ways of taking control back instead of giving _____ to God.

2. _____ it.

- Give it _____. (Deuteronomy 14:22: 16:16-17)

As a spiritual discipline to _____ us that it is all from God, he asks us to give from what he has given to us and what is ultimately his.

Throughout the Bible, the concept of 10% (a tithe) is portrayed as a _____ of what it means to be generous and a discipline to remember that God owns it all.

- Give it _____.

Where is God leading you with your BLESS list this week?



- Give it _____. (Deuteronomy 14:22-23)

Matthew 6: ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven... ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Your _____ will follow where you give mindfully.

Deuteronomy 14:28-29; 15:7,13-15

Giving _____ shapes our hearts and minds for God.

3. _____ it. (2 Corinthians 9:6-8; Deuteronomy 14:22-27)

Utilitarianism is the idea that our money should only go to our absolute needs and that we should meet our absolute needs in the most minimal way possible and then give away the rest. Jesus didn't live that way, and _____ is the utilitarian in the gospels.

1 Timothy 6: ¹⁷ Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

Enjoy it as from God.

- Enjoy it _____.
- Enjoy it _____.
- Enjoy it _____.

1 Timothy 6: 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.

Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. What's one of your favorite sports movies?
3. Read Deuteronomy 14:22-29. What reason does God give the Israelites for this tithing command in verse 23?
4. What purpose was tithing intended to serve in Israel?
5. Paul talks about joyful giving in 2 Corinthians 9 (see below). How do the instructions in Deuteronomy 14 encourage joyful giving?
2 Corinthians 9: ⁶ Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷ Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.