

# If Money Talked Less Pressure!

**Money is a better servant than master (Matthew 6:24).** God wants us free from financial pressure. Unfortunately, how we handle our money often creates the pressure we experience (e.g. spending more than we make, having no margin for emergencies, building excessive debt). Freedom from financial pressure and stress comes as we battle to make sure money serves instead of masters. It comes when we seek His kingdom and righteousness first, when we increasingly walk in Spirit-empowered self-control. The challenge is to practice financial self-control by having a plan and by purposefully giving first to help people find their way back to God.

## GETTING STARTED

What kinds of choices do people make that create financial pressure for themselves? Why do you think they make those choices?

## GO DEEPER

1. In Matthew 6:24, Jesus teaches that no one can serve God *and* money. What does it look like to serve money? How does money become our master?
2. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 6:12 that in Jesus “*everything is permissible for me*” – *but not everything is beneficial*. He is refuting the thought that Christian freedom means we can do whatever we want without concern. What is true freedom in Christ, and how might that freedom affect our perspective and handling of our finances?
3. From Matthew 6:33, how do we *seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness* concerning our money? What is the evidence or fruit of seeking first His Kingdom and His righteousness when it comes to how we handle our finances?

## MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. What financial pressure are you experiencing right now? What does freedom from that pressure look like, and what might be your first step towards that freedom?
2. How well do you walk in Spirit-empowered self-control when it comes to your money? Where do you need more self-control in how you handle your finances?
3. What would your credit card statement say you really value, based on what you spent money on?

## PRACTICE IT NOW

**Take time as a group to intentionally pray for an increased desire to seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, especially as it relates to your finances.** Ask Him for an increased capacity to make your money your servant rather than your master, and for an ever-increasing ability to walk in Spirit-empowered self-control in how you handle your money.

## BLESS

Having a meal together with someone is a powerful tool that puts them at ease and creates an atmosphere of meaningful conversation and connection. **Who do you know (unchurched or unsaved) that you can invite to lunch or dinner simply to get to know them?** The goal is to foster relationship and trust that allows you to eventually share your story of how God has worked in your heart and life.