

GROUPS

Week of 2-28-21

The following group discussion topics are from the final message in the series: "It's Complicated" at Stockbridge Community Church and was presented by Pastor Jeff Daws.

ICEBREAKER (If your group needs it) If you were randomly given \$10 million dollars, what are the first two things you'd do with it?

#1 You guessed it, with an icebreaker that asked about \$10 million dollars, we're talking a little about being on the same page within a relationship - specifically the financial page. Before you get nervous, this may be the most beneficial conversation on money you have all year, especially where relationships are concerned. **You've probably heard that most divorces are over "money problems" DO NOT NAME NAMES, but can you think of any stories of anyone you know, or know of, that this has happened to? What was that like?**

#2 Those "money problems" are almost always really just communication problems. When we don't talk about things, we can't work to make them better. Sparing our spouse, or boyfriend/girlfriend from the truth of our situation doesn't help them - in fact it causes far more hurt in the long-term for them. **How openly do you talk about money with your spouse if you are married? How openly do you talk about money with those you confide in and look up to if you are single?**

#3 There is a lie that Christians have been told. The lie is that having money will make them feel more secure. You know, people thought that before the Great Depression, Great Recession, and even the pandemic we are living through now. What we have learned is that money (great and small amounts) can just about disappear in an instant. **Think back to when you were younger, even if that means just thinking back a year or two. What was your belief in the security that comes from money, and, how has that changed with the wisdom you have gained since then?**

#4 Let's read our key verse for today: *Jesus said, "Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own."* Luke 12:15 NLT

FOLLOW UP QUESTION Our culture teaches that the better our house or car, the better our life is. We are even taught subconsciously that moving to a more expensive neighborhood can fix all of our problems, friends, kids, etc. Countless people go into massive amounts of debt just to try and have the status that comes with it. **Can you share any examples of bad decisions you made in the past? Remember! No judgement here - it's about getting better, not blaming yourself.**

#5 We even convince ourselves that the things we own belong to us and they always will. If you think about it, you've never seen a U-Haul rolling behind a hearse. What you have today will be someone else's tomorrow. James 1:17 teaches us that all good and perfect gifts are from God. Just like when you buy your child a toy, if you are a parent, you can always take it away. It's no different with earthly possessions. Everything belongs to God anyway, we are simply managers of it. **How does the knowledge that everything you have belongs to God, and you are just the manager, change the way you handle your own money?**

2021 Daily Declarations This year at SCC we are being called to recite our daily declarations. Does anyone know them by heart? Want to try and recite them for the group?

I am a Christian that connects with God daily through prayer.
I am a Christian that grows by reading the Bible and connecting with God's people.
I am a Christian that serves in my church and my community.
I am a Christian that shares my faith and resources generously.
I am a Christian that exists to give people an opportunity for a better life through Christ.

2021 Goals We are also on a mission to complete **2,000** acts of service in our community, have **200** people in Growth Track, see **1,000** people in small groups, reach **1,000** in weekly church attendance on-campus, and have **\$150,000** given to missions.

Just think, if everyone who hadn't taken Growth Track took even one step - we'd accomplish that goal. Prayerfully consider what your part is in seeing our goals become a reality this year!

Closing Prayer/Requests:

Announcements/Next Steps: Growth Track begins anew on March 7th. This is a great time, with a brand new class lesson, to take your first step!