

## **Neighborhood Life Group Guide**

Matthew: Where is Your Treasure?

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Matthew 6:19-34

March 4, 2018



**Prayer:** Ask God to give freedom and peace this week to those in our church facing immense stress and anxiety in their lives.

**Read:** Take a few minutes to read and mark up the following passage on your own.

### **Matthew 6:19-34**

<sup>19</sup> "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, <sup>20</sup> but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

<sup>22</sup> "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, <sup>23</sup> but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

<sup>24</sup> "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

<sup>25</sup> "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? <sup>26</sup> Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?<sup>27</sup> And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? <sup>28</sup> And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, <sup>29</sup> yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. <sup>30</sup> But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? <sup>31</sup> Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' <sup>32</sup> For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. <sup>33</sup> But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. <sup>34</sup> "Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

### **Discussion Questions**

1. After reading Matthew 6:19-34, share some observations from the verses you've just read.
2. What from this week's sermon impacted you?
3. In Matthew 6:21, Jesus says, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will also be."
  - Before you became a Christian, what did you treasure most? If you're not a Christian, what do you treasure most?

- If you're a Christian, in what ways have you seen Jesus transform your heart and what you treasure most?

4. Seeing is made possible when light enters into our body through the eye. In Matthew 6:23, Jesus tells us that a bad eye prevents light from entering the body and a bad eye cannot distinguish light from darkness.

- What are some examples of how people in the world confuse light (good) with darkness (evil)?
- How does a Christian distinguish between light and darkness?

5. Matthew 6:24 says, "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money."

- In what ways can money become a master over us?
- How should a servant of God view and use money?

6. Jesus says, "Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble" (Matthew 6:34).

- Why do people worry, stress, and fret about the future?
- How does Jesus say we should view the future in the Bible?

7. Jesus says that answer to our anxieties is to "seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness" (Matthew 6:33).

- What is a particular anxiety you struggle with? What would it look like you to seek God's kingdom first when that anxiety appears in your life?

**Personal Reflection:** Take a few minutes to reflect upon how you have been living out your faith for Jesus Christ this past week.

- ❖ **Word:** Have I read God's Word every day this week? What has God been teaching me?
  
- ❖ **Prayer:** Have I prayed to God every day this week? What have I prayed for?
  
- ❖ **Fellowship:** Have I gathered with other believers for fellowship and worship this week? How have I encouraged other Christians? How are other Christians encouraging me?
  
- ❖ **Confession:** Where am I struggling with sin, temptation, doubt, or hardship? Is there someone I need to seek forgiveness from? Is there someone I need to forgive?
  
- ❖ **Praise:** How have I seen God at work this week? What fruit have I seen in other people's lives?
  
- ❖ **Mission:** How have I been on mission this week? Who needs to hear the Gospel? Who can I invite to church? Who can I encourage or pray for this week?

**Prayer:** After you've spent some time in personal reflection, share one prayer request – a praise, a need, a confession, etc. Write down your group's prayer requests and commit to praying for them this week.