

Mental



✔ Prepare in Advance

Facilitator: In advance of the session:

- Paper and pens/pencils for personal reflection time
- Review today's scripture text and the session activities to help better facilitate the discussion.
- Have the *Bible Background Video* ready to view.

✔ Explore

Before reading the text, lead the following discussion:

Today's scripture passage is about money. Before we begin, what biblical teachings about money can you recall?

Have someone read Luke 16:1-13 out loud and show the *Bible Background Video*.

✔ A Shrewd Manager

- What do we learn about the manager from the very first verse? Why did the landowner want to fire him?
- Various translations call this the Parable of the "Shrewd" or "Clever" Manager. Describe his actions – what was so clever about what he did?
- Rather than being even angrier with his manager, the master commended him. Why do you think he was impressed with the manager's actions?

✔ Lessons for Living

Jesus never tells us to emulate the dishonest actions of the manager, but he gives us some important things to think about in how we deal with material possessions.

- What do you think Jesus meant by his statements in verse 8 about people of the world and people of the light?
- What kinds of things are we to do with our material possessions, and how does this fit into life in the Kingdom of God?
- According to verses 10-12, what do even our smallest actions say about our character and our trustworthiness?
- To whom do our material possessions really belong? Why, then, is it even more important that we use them honestly and wisely?
- What important lesson do we find in verse 13? Why can we not serve both masters?

- Does this mean we are really to hate money or material things? If not, what is Jesus saying about our relationship to our material possessions?

✔ Personal Reflection

Ask the following questions, and allow group members time to reflect and record their answers.

- What material things has God blessed me with (e.g., money, home, vehicle, etc.)?
- Am I caring for those things wisely?
- How can I make even better use of these things to benefit God's Kingdom?

✔ Closing

In closing, share one thing you feel God is calling you to do or change in response to today's scripture. Then close with prayer.

By Jon Parks

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