

GUARDRAILS
Guarding Your Finances – October 29-30, 2011

ICEBREAKER:

Take some time to get to know each other with some open sharing:

- What would you do for \$10 million dollars?
- Describe a time when you wasted your money.
- Describe a time when your money made a difference.

INTRODUCTION:

What is greed?

How is it that greed often times masks itself as a virtue?

Take a look at Jesus' definitive statement on greed in Luke 12:15. Describe a greedy person from this verse. What lessons can you learn from this verse?

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Following Jesus' statement on greed, He tells a story of the rich man. Read the story in Luke 12:16-21.

What was driving this man's greed?

From the story, what is the farmer's "Big Barn" dysfunction? What does it mean to be rich toward God?

2. Wrestle with this question: Why won't we give \$300 to someone in need, yet maintain a \$3000 credit card balance? What is that? Is this a money issue or a heart issue?

3. Later on after Jesus tells this story, He challenges His followers with a habit of the heart that will break the power of greed in people's lives. (See and read Luke 12:33)

Is Jesus asking you to liquidate everything you have? Defend your answer. What does it mean to store up treasure in heaven? How do you go about doing that?

4. What kind of guardrails do you currently have in place to protect you from greed?

5. Based on Matthew 6:24, do you agree that the biggest competitor for your trust in God is your stuff/\$?

6. Discuss the share-save-spend plan. Why is the order important? What do you think of this plan: 10-10-80? (Share 10%; save 10%; spend or live on 80%) Is this doable?

7. Brainstorm the concept of a tithe (10%).

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Read Matthew 6:31-33. What steps will you take to incorporate a lifestyle that practices share, save, and spend (in that order)?

The first step in God's financial strategy is to share the first of your income with God. What adjustments will you make in this area?

What financial guardrails will you put in place to protect yourself from greed?

THINK ABOUT IT (Something to memorize or chew on)

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Matthew 6:33 (TNIV)

"NOT A FAN" FOLLOWUP

Share with the group how is God continuing to use the "not a fan" series in your life?