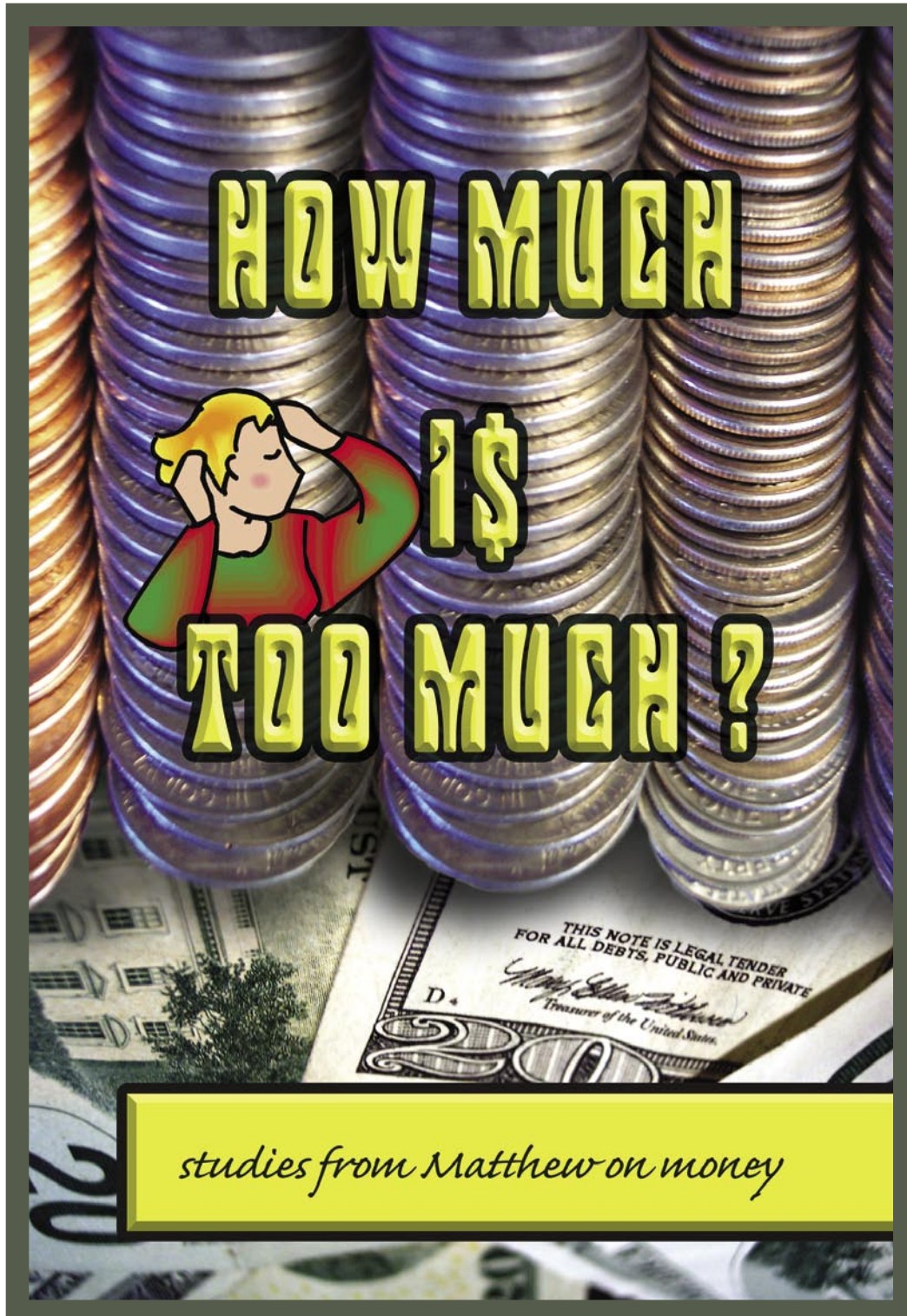


FACILITATOR'S GUIDE APR 08



**BIBLE STUDY BY CAROL REID
GUIDE BY CAROLYN MICHAEL**

INVESTING IN ETERNITY

PURPOSE: Explore the meaning and value of heavenly treasures and eternal investments.

PRINCIPLE: Our use of money/possessions is a litmus test of heart devotions to God.

PRACTICE: “...For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” (Matthew 6:21).



INTRODUCTION



“I WANT IT ALL, AND I WANT IT NOW.” I heard this statement while watching TV. At first, I thought it was the promo for a new game show. Then I realized the line was for a credit card company, telling everyone they can “have it all” and “have it now” simply by using their credit card. They don’t bother to explain that debt incurred would have to be paid for eventually.

This mentality of “wanting” seems to be taking over our country. Have you noticed all the game shows—“Deal Or No Deal”, “Do You Want To Be A Millionaire”, “Jeopardy”, “One Versus 100” and others—that give contestants a chance at winning great amounts of money? I must confess, I love to watch these shows and even think to myself, “I’d like to be on there”. The excitement of seeing someone else get more material things has turned into a past time. What are we living for? The bumper sticker proclaims, “I owe, I owe, so off to work I go.” Humorous, yes, but for millions of people it’s so true. Wanting to earn money or trying to be more comfortable in life is not a sin, as long as we know and acknowledge the Giver of both our possessions and our ability to work. However, we need to remember, as we read in Hosea 13:6, that being prosperous leads to being proud. Pride can then cause us to forget God.

_____ In this final study on money, we will be looking at “Investing in Eternity.” Are we laying up treasures in Heaven or just consuming them here on earth? It is my prayer that our perspective will broaden to include long term future investments instead of short term pleasures.



WEEK ONE



- \$ Write the memory verse on a 3x5 card. “...For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also” (Matthew 6:21).
- \$ What is an investment portfolio? (*It’s a plan for investing money into different options such as stocks, IRA’s, money markets, CD’s, etc.*)
- \$ How would you feel about someone else being in charge of your money?
- \$ Go over the questions for Week One on page 19-20.
- \$ God values treasure, as we see in Matthew 6:19-21. Yet, He wants us to invest it in a safe place where it won’t be consumed by moth, rust, or thieves. So how do you put treasures in Heaven? (*Invest in church, missions, missionaries, ministries to help the poor, children’s homes, etc.*)
- \$ Spend a few extra minutes discussing Luke 12:40, question 14. (*The warning is to be ready.*) Are you ready for the Lord’s return?
- \$ Have you made any advance preparations? (*Wills, Funeral Plans, Power of Attorney, Beneficiaries Named on Accounts*)
- \$ Work on your “Spending Journal.” Are you making fewer entries now than when you started?
- \$ Close in prayer, thanking God for whatever He’s given you in your life.



WEEK TWO



- \$ Go over the memory verse together.
- \$ Read the parable in Matthew 25:1-13.
- \$ Go over the questions for Week Two on page 20.
- \$ Read the parable in Luke 12:13-21.
- \$ Go over the questions for Week Two on page 21..
- \$ Do you think God was excessive in His punishment of the rich man?
- \$ How do you feel about the fact that we could die at any time?
- \$ Does it make you afraid to think about your death? Are you prepared to leave this life?
- \$ Fill in your “Spending Journal.”
- \$ Pray for anyone who does not know she would go to Heaven when she dies.



WEEK THREE



- \$ Ask for a volunteer to say the verse from memory.
- \$ Do you understand that your treasure is where your heart is?
- \$ Read Matthew 26:13. What will be a memorial to you when you die? (*Faithfulness? Trustworthiness? Obedience? Servant-attitude? Loving heart?*)
- \$ How do you feel knowing that the Lord is your inheritance?
- \$ Do you have a “Legacy of Faith”? Do you want to leave one behind? (*Reread the third paragraph, page 18 under “Durable Inheritance.”*)
- \$ Are you leaving a godly inheritance to your children? (*Integrity? Faith? Wisdom? Godly priorities? Righteousness?*)
- \$ Do you think your “Spending Journal” has been a help to you?
- \$ Close in prayer, thanking God for our eternal inheritance.



WEEK FOUR



- \$ Say the memory verse together from memory.
- \$ Do you have a vision of your eternal inheritance?
- \$ What does materialism mean to you? (*Revelation 18: 15-18 speaks of “Babylon the Great” being rich in wealth and merchandise, yet she fell.*)
- \$ What are some signs of materialism? (*Anxiety over money, covetousness, selfishness, greediness-wanting what you don’t have, discontent-with what you have, idolatry-love things more than people*)
- \$ Do you believe in the prosperity theology? (*“Health and wealth gospel” to promote material payoffs in the life we’re living on earth.*)
- \$ What does Paul tell us in I Timothy 6:7-8? (*We can’t take anything with us. All that matters will be the life we’ve lived here.*)
- \$ Go over questions 4 and 5, page 22. What did God say He would do to the church at Laodicea? (*Spew them out of His mouth—Revelation 3:16*)

- \$ Is there a cure for being lukewarm? (*Yes. Read Revelation 3:19, 20*)
- \$ Evaluate your “Spending Journal” for signs of heavenly investments.
- \$ Make a final decision concerning where to give the money in the “group fund.”
- \$ Close in prayer, asking God to give us an eternal perspective toward giving.

We may trust financial advisors here on earth, but remember that Jesus is the ultimate financial advisor. We can always trust Him and His advice. What we give Him here will be waiting for us in Heaven. Why not show Him that we really love Him? Put your treasures where they will be managed by God. Randy Alcorn, preacher and author, says, “He who spends his life moving away from his treasures has reason to despair; he who spends his life moving toward his treasures has reason to rejoice.” I want to rejoice. How about you?

LEADER’S TIP: You may want to ask these questions aloud or reproduce the sheet on the next page to use as a quiz. It should be fun to see how much everyone actually notices about the paper money we all use. (*Answers at the end*)

PLAY THE MONEY TRIVIA GAME

- (1) Whose picture is on the front of the \$50 bill?
- (2) What is on the back of the \$50?
- (3) Whose picture is on the front of the \$10?
- (4) What is on the back of the \$10 bill?
- (5) Whose picture is on the front of the \$5?
- (6) What is on the back?
- (7) Whose picture is on the front of the \$1 bill?
- (8) What is on the back?
- (9) What building is on the back of the \$20 bill?
- (10) Whose picture is on the front of the \$20 bill?
- (11) What is the most commonly printed bill?
- (12) Has there ever been a woman on U.S. currency?
- (13) What is the highest denomination of bill in circulation?
- (14) Whose signature appears on U.S. currency?
- (15) What is the motto on U.S. currency?
- (16) Whose picture is on the front of the \$2 bill that is no longer printed?
- (17) Whose picture is on a \$100 bill?
- (18) What is on the back of a \$100 bill?
- (19) What is our currency printed on?
- (20) How do you get to have your picture printed on U.S. currency?

ANSWERS: (1) Ulysses Grant, (2) U.S. Capitol Building, (3) Alexander Hamilton, (4) U.S. Treasury Building, (5) Abraham Lincoln, (6) Lincoln Memorial, (7) George Washington, (8) Great Seal and ONE, (9) White House, (10) Andrew Jackson, (11) \$1 Bill, (12) Yes-Martha Washington on \$1 Certificates in 1886, 1891, 1896, (13) \$100 Bill, (14) Secretary of Treasury, (15) “In God We Trust”, (16) Thomas Jefferson, (17) Benjamin Franklin, (18) Independence Hall, (19) 75% cotton, 25% linen, (20) You must be deceased and have done something for your country.



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