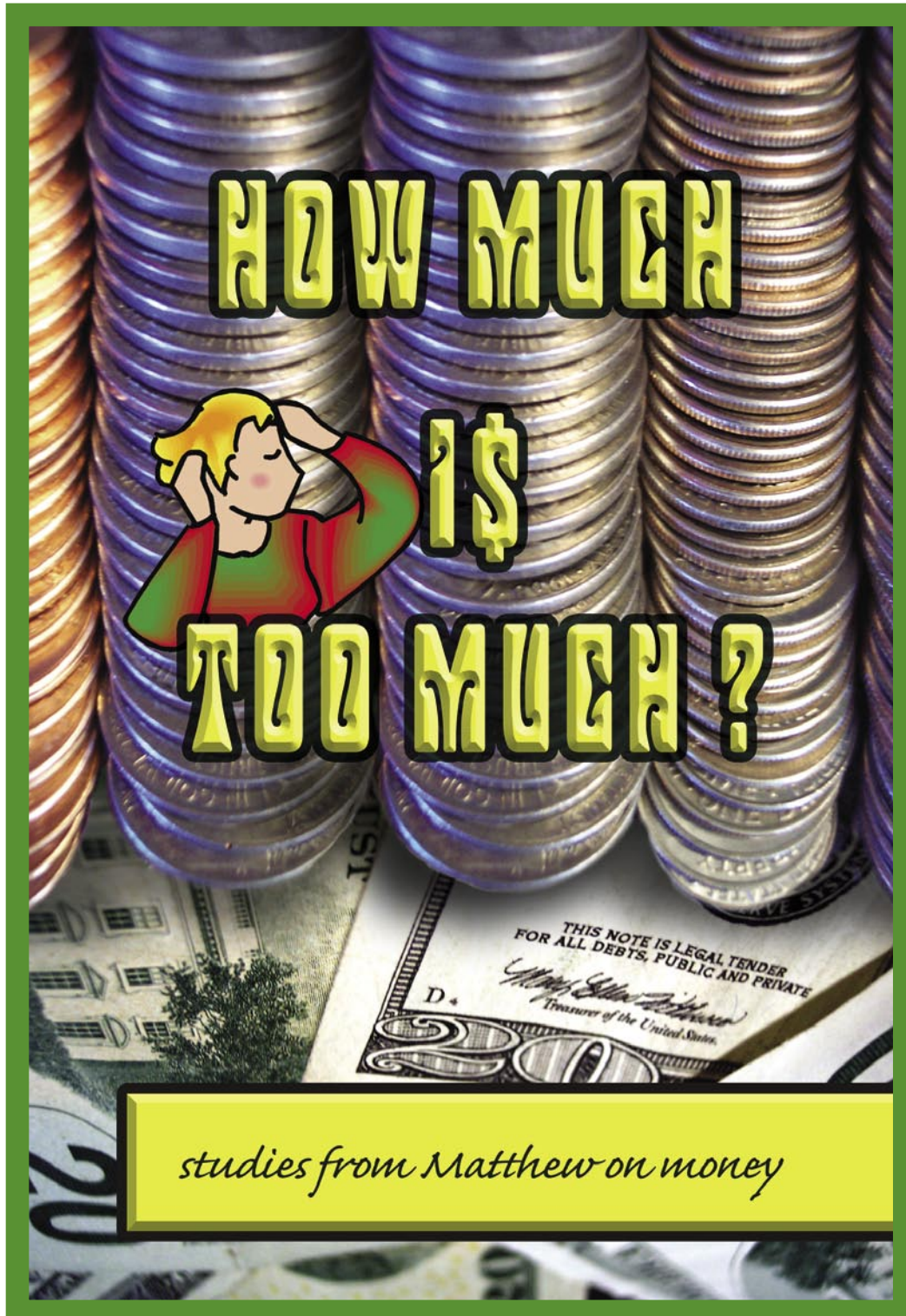


FACILITATOR'S GUIDE FEB 08



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

TRUSTING GOD

PURPOSE: Find contentment through trust in God rather than in material things or financial wealth.

PRINCIPLE: Trust involves both risk and surrender.

PRACTICE: “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness: and all these things shall be added unto you” (Matthew 6:33).



INTRODUCTION



“THE LIFESTYLES OF THE RICH AND FAMOUS” was a popular TV show in the late 80’s and early 90’s. Viewers were shown how people (mostly entertainers, athletes and business moguls) with exorbitant amounts of money lived their lives. They had beautiful, extravagant homes, flashy sports cars, glamorous clothes and jewelry, exotic vacation spots and anything else their hearts desired. It provided glimpses into jet-setting that the average person only dreams of. When the half-hour program ended, viewers would return to their every day, normal lifestyle.

For Christians, our lifestyle will be what God has provided for us. He may have blessed us with a great job, a comfortable home, a simple lifestyle, or great wealth. Whatever our financial situation, we know that life without God is meaningless. Without Him, we are empty and ever searching, as Solomon lamented in the first chapter of Ecclesiastes.

Our study this month helps us realize we must trust God for our happiness, our needs and our contentment. Are you ready for a new mindset? Try to truthfully answer all questions in this month’s study. Pray that God will change, transform or continue to mold your lifestyle into one that pleases Him.



WEEK ONE



- \$ Write the memory verse on a 3x5 card. Put it on your refrigerator or a place where you’ll see it every day.
- \$ Have someone read Matthew 16:24-27 aloud.
- \$ Go over the questions on page 19.
- \$ Think about the disciples’ assignment and packing instructions in Matthew 10:5-15. Why did God tell them not to take a bag, money, or extra clothes?
(God wanted to make sure the disciples trusted their Heavenly Father alone for provision and not the earthly sources of security.)
- \$ The author raises the question (*sidebar, page 19*) about trusting your pastor on a missionary trip without benefit of luggage, charge cards, or cash. Could you do this? Would you *want* to do this? (*Remember, I said “truthfully!”*)
- \$ How are the different ministries funded in your church?
- \$ Do you believe in tithing? Read Genesis 14:18-20; 28:20-22, Leviticus 27:30, Malachi 3:8-10 and 1 Corinthians 16:2.
- \$ Should ministry be a money making venture? See 2 Corinthians 2:17; 3:5.
(Paul certainly didn’t want his motives for ministry to be misinterpreted but instead understood that his needs were supplied by God.)
- \$ What do you think about fund-raisers for church ministries or activities?

(Wade through this question cautiously, especially if your church has a set policy concerning fund-raisers. Many youth and adult groups have made missionary trips because of money earned in fund-raisers. Many WAC groups have donated money for church projects, needy opportunities, and missionaries because of fund-raisers. We need to make sure our confidence is in God, and not the fund-raiser. God should always get the glory.)

- \$ We started working on a “Spending Journal” last month. Take a minute to update yours now or look over it if you are working on it at home.
- \$ Close in prayer and thank God for His financial plan in the Bible.



WEEK TWO



- \$ Go over the memory verse together.
- \$ Does God provide for you? Do you believe He will provide for you?
- \$ Go over some of the questions on page 20 and share answers.
- \$ Look at question 4 on page 20. Read aloud Matthew 17:24-27.
(The need was tribute money or the temple tax.)
- \$ Give your answer for question 6 on page 20.
- \$ Do you enjoy paying taxes?
(If anyone's answer is yes, I'd be a little concerned. I doubt anyone enjoys paying taxes. Yet, God tells us to do this.)
- \$ In Romans 13:1 we are told to “be subject unto the higher powers” and Romans 13:7 to “render therefore to all their dues.”
(We are subject to the laws of our country and therefore, we are required to pay taxes.)
- \$ How did paying taxes play into the birth of our Savior? (Luke 2:1-6)
- \$ Fill in your “Spending Journal.”
- \$ Close in prayer. Thank God for His provision in all things.



WEEK THREE



- \$ Have a volunteer say the memory verse.
- \$ Do you ever worry?
This week's title is “Worry Free.” The first few questions concern food and clothes. This may be a big concern for some; for others it might not be a problem. However, there may be other areas of life that cause us worry. Name some of these areas. *(Aging parents, children, church concerns, friends, etc.)*
- \$ So how do we not worry? Philippians 4:6,7 is a place to start.
- \$ Where should we place our worries and burdens? Read Psalm 55:22 and 1 Peter 5:7.
- \$ Work on the “Spending Journal.”
- \$ Are you worrying over your spending habits?
- \$ How can you resolve this situation?
(Set a goal for your spending and try not to go over it. Live without some things for a month,

such as candy, cokes, magazines, rental movies, things that aren't necessities. Bargain shop and use coupons. Tune in to Dave Ramsey's radio show or listen daily to Money Matters—from Crown Financial Ministries.)

\$ Close in prayer, thanking God that we can cast all our cares on Him.



WEEK FOUR



\$ Have everyone say the memory verse together. Encourage the group to continue saying it after this lesson is completed.

\$ Are you a contented person?

\$ What is the secret of being content?

\$ Is it *normal* to be content in our society?

(Probably not. Just go to the malls and super centers and check out the packages of shoppers. It seems we're never satisfied. We think if we have more money, we can buy ourselves happiness; or if we're poor, then we can just want what the rich have.)

\$ Read Ecclesiastes 2:24-26 and we find it's all from the hand of God.

\$ Does it help knowing we will be surrounded by riches in Heaven? Read 2 Corinthians 5:1, Philippians 4:19, Revelation 4:2-4 and chapters 18-21.
(God's riches are without limit. They're infinite.)

\$ We can trust in God's Word and be confident if we know the Promise Giver of John 14:13. We then have a right to claim His promises if we know Him. Look at John 14:1-3. Someday, the riches of Heaven will be ours.

\$ Reflect on all God has given you.

\$ Don't forget to fill in your "Spending Journal." Are you beginning to notice any changes in your spending patterns?

\$ Close in prayer, asking God to help you to live a contented life.