

MONEY Matters

Date: Sunday 10th August to Sunday 31st August 2025.

Key point of this campaign: Jesus teaches us that our relationship with money matters.

Dear CG Leader,

Please see below the following selection of many questions for your cg discussion. *Please choose the questions you think are the best fit your cg.* Healthy Biblical discussion around money is something we want you to aim for in your cg. If you feel like you need more equipping, please see our website by clicking on the link below:

<https://c3syd.church/nextstep/giving/>

With love,

The Connect Team.

Announcements:

<p>Giving</p>	<p><i>To equip you in the leadership of your connect group during the Money Matters Campaign, please see the link below to our C3 SYD website with information and videos on, 'What is Giving?', 'Why do we Give?' and 'How do we Give?' Please forward this link to anyone in your cg who would like to know more: https://c3syd.church/nextstep/giving/</i></p> <p><i>The web page Includes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 3x Teaching Videos ○ Giving Booklet ○ Ways to Give
<p>Conference 10-12 October</p>	<p><i>Don't forget to register for Conference 2025! Happening from the 10th to the 12th of October.</i></p> <p><i>This year we are introducing a new structure! Running Friday night, Saturday day and Sunday morning. Sunday morning, we will gather all locations at our NB location, and we will be celebrating baptisms and having lunch together. https://c3syd.church/conference2025/</i></p>
<p>Online Prayer</p>	<p><i>If someone in your connect group can't make it to a face-to-face prayer meeting, our Online Prayer Meeting is a great alternative!</i></p> <p><i>Here's the link to join or share: https://c3syd.church/prayer/</i></p>
<p>Foundations</p>	<p><i>Our online Foundations Course is held in the evenings and runs weekly for 5 weeks. Please encourage any new believers in your connect group to attend this significant course to help them establish strong foundations, even if the course runs on your connect group night. Starting at 7pm.</i></p> <p><i>Please stay in touch with them to help them plug into community, gather them to church, answer any questions they may have and then resume attending your cg once the course finishes. (Of course, if your cg meeting doesn't clash with the Foundations course, and the new believer is up for it, they could attend both meetings – Foundations and your Connect Group.)</i></p> <p><i>Here's a link to the website for more information: https://c3syd.church/next-step-foundations/</i></p>
<p>Freedom Ministry</p>	<p><i>Freedom Ministry is Holy Spirit directed and empowered prayer ministry aimed to bring healing to an individual, spirit, soul and body. If you or anyone in your cg is interested in accessing this ministry, please fill in the form below and our team will be in touch: https://c3syd.info/freedom</i></p>

Connect Questions

- **Week 1: MONEY MATTERS**
- **Week 2: STEWARDSHIP: It's About Thriving**

17th August 2025

Stewardship is the responsible management of our financial resources in a way that glorifies God. When we give our money boundaries to live within, we move from financially surviving to financially thriving.

1. Our relationship with money as a follower of Jesus is very important. Money is the god of this age. Jesus was very clear that, *"...you cannot serve two masters, you will either love the one and hate the other or hate the one and love the other. You cannot serve both God and mammon."* **Matthew 6:24.**

Money becomes an issue of the heart, an issue of trust and an issue of Lordship.

- What are some of the emotions you have experienced or seen, when it comes to money?
 - Discuss what it means to you to bring your money under the Lordship of God?
 - When we know God is Lord of our finances, how does this effect our behaviours, mindsets or attitudes? Discuss.
 - What could be your next step to bring all your finances under God's Lordship?
2. To be silent about money as a follower of Jesus is to be silent about one of the most relevant issues of our human experience. We shouldn't be afraid to talk about money matters and learn from each other. How has the Bible shaped how you think about money compared to what your upbringing and the world has taught you?
 3. When we give our money boundaries to live within, we move from financially surviving to financially thriving.
 - What does this mean?
 - Can you think of any illustrations of giving money boundaries which has lead to financial thriving? Discuss.
 4. **Embrace the value of Self-control.** Like a city whose walls are broken down is a man who lacks self-control. **Prov 25:28** Discuss this scripture and how it relates to your money and spending habits.
 5. "Learn to say no for a little while, say yes for rest of life." What does this mean regarding finances?

6. Self-control is a fruit of the Spirit. Are there any areas of your money management where you spend recklessly or without self-control? As a group discuss and think of next steps to help in this area.
7. **Embrace the value of sacrifice.** “Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross... **Heb. 12:2**

Sacrifice means giving up something we love for something we love even more!

- We all face pressure at times to indulge or to overspend. Are there particular pressures you face from perhaps neighbours, colleagues, the media or just the worldview, to ‘fit in’?
 - How do we sacrifice (not just dollar amounts) to honour God and how can we stay strong in this value?
8. **Embrace the value of planning.**
Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? **Luke 14:28**

The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty. **Prov 21:5**

You can wander into debt, but you won’t wander out. Discuss.

9. What are the different ways that you plan with your money?
 - Share if you are comfortable, any strategies, books, organisations etc. that have helped you to repair money mistakes you have made in the past.
 - What will be your next step in stewarding your finances? Is there an area you feel you need to look at more closely? Who can help you do this?

○ **Week 3: TITHING: It’s about Lordship**

○ **Week 4: GENEROSITY: It’s about Identity**

31st August 2025

Generosity is a reflection of Christ in us; it’s less about what we have and more about who we are.

For God so loved the world that he gave ... **John 3:16**

1. Discuss as a group the ‘deductive reasoning’ below:

Deductive Reasoning.

What is God? God is ... Love.

What does God do? ... Gives.

If God is love ... and God gives —> **LOVE GIVES**

If love gives, you can't love without giving.

2. Who are the most generous people you know? Share any stories of outrageous generosity that have impacted you.
3. What is generosity?
4. The Macedonian churches weren't generous out of their surplus, they were generous out of their poverty. Because generosity was NOT dependent on their status or their state... generous was who they were. Discuss.
5. Are there any situations where you have felt uncomfortable giving or reluctant, for example when there's a charity collecting on every street corner or you've just been retrenched?
6. What is the difference between being generous and being someone wealthy who "throws their money around"?
7. In our western culture, we consume and at times still feel we do not have enough. Our God is more than enough. Make a list of all the things He has generously given you. What do you have more than enough of and how can you share it?
8. The Macedonian church gave generously and willingly! It's who they were. The idea that more money makes us more generous isn't necessarily true. More money won't make us more generous – it makes us more of what we already are. If we are not generous when we have less— we won't be generous when we have more. Discuss the above.
9. If we are generous now, when we have more money, will we be more generous? Discuss.
10. God is love and God gives. And we are children of God. **Generosity** is who we are, because we are **children of God**. Discuss what this means – *generosity is who we are*.
11. How can being God's children, the great Jehovah Jireh, guard our hearts against scarcity mindsets?
12. What could be your next step in generosity?
13. Sometimes people feel weird or a sense of obligation when we offer to buy them coffee or lunch. Have you ever been rejected when you give? How does being generous as our identity help us when our giving is not met well? What are some things you could say about your motivation and identity as a generous child of God?

Week 1: Money Matters

Date: Sunday 10th August 2025

Key Point of this week: We don't serve money, we serve God and money serves us.

Key Scripture/s: Matthew 6:24

Our relationship with money as a follower of Jesus is very important.
Money is the God of this age.

Jesus was very clear that "...you cannot serve two masters, you will either love the one and hate the other or hate the one and love the other. You cannot serve both God and mammon."

Matthew 6:24

- So money becomes an issue of the heart.
- Money becomes an issue of trust. Money becomes an issue of Lordship.
- To be silent about money as a follower of Jesus is to be silent about one of the most relevant issues of our human experience.
-

Does the church want your money?

No, as the Church we want you to know Jesus, find community and discover purpose!

How you relate to money will either hinder or aid the most important call on your life - to know and to follow Jesus.

Supporting content:

THE TEMPTATION OF MONEY AND THINGS

1. **We are tempted to serve money.**

No one can serve two masters. 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 both God and Money.

Matt 6:24

2. **We are tempted to love money.**

For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. **1 Tim. 6:10**

Ecc1 5:10

¹⁰ *Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is meaningless.*

Many are under money's power and don't even know it.

When we believe most problems solved by more \$, under its influence. What I really need is more \$! What we Really need is more Jesus.

A GODLY PERSPECTIVE ON MONEY

We don't serve money—We serve God.

MONEY SERVES US AS WE SERVE GOD.

How can money serve us?

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another... Rom 13:8

Imagine debt free!

Week 2: STEWARDSHIP: It's About Thriving

Date: Sunday 17th August 2025

Key Point of this week: When we give our money boundaries to live within, we move from financially surviving to financially thriving.

Key Scripture/s: Matthew 6:24, Prov 25:28

Our relationship with money as a follower of Jesus is very important.
Money is the God of this age.

Jesus was very clear that “...you cannot serve two masters, you will either love the one and hate the other or hate the one and love the other. You cannot serve both God and mammon.”

Matthew 6:24

- So money becomes an issue of the heart.
- Money becomes an issue of trust. Money becomes an issue of Lordship.
- To be silent about money as a follower of Jesus is to be silent about one of the most relevant issues of our human experience.
-

Does the church want your money?

No, as the Church we want you to know Jesus, find community and discover purpose!
How you relate to money will either hinder or aid the most important call on your life - to know and to follow Jesus.

Supporting content:

1. Embrace the value of self-control.

Like a city whose walls are broken down is a man who lacks self-control. **Prov 25:28**
Learn to say no for a little while say yes for rest of life.
Live like no one else, and you will be able to live like no one else!

2. Embrace the value of sacrifice.

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross... **Heb. 12:2**
Giving up something we love for something we love even more!

3. Embrace the value of planning.

Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? **Luke 14:28**

The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty. **Prov 21:5**
You can wander into debt, but you won't wander out.

Week 3: TITHING: It's about Lordship

Date: Sunday 24th August 2025

Key Point of this week: Putting God first in our finances is not generosity, it's surrender.

Key Scripture/s: Matthew 6:24,

Our relationship with money as a follower of Jesus is very important.
Money is the God of this age.

Jesus was very clear that "...you cannot serve two masters, you will either love the one and hate the other or hate the one and love the other. You cannot serve both God and mammon."

Matthew 6:24

- So money becomes an issue of the heart.
- Money becomes an issue of trust. Money becomes an issue of Lordship.
- To be silent about money as a follower of Jesus is to be silent about one of the most relevant issues of our human experience.
-

Does the church want your money?

No, as the Church we want you to know Jesus, find community and discover purpose!
How you relate to money will either hinder or aid the most important call on your life - to know and to follow Jesus.

Supporting content:

WHAT IS TITHING?

Tithing is bringing God the first 10% of all our increase. People say tithing is mosaic, meaning it is a practice that is under the law and we are no longer under the law. Therefore, we no longer need to tithe. However, tithing is not in fact a practice or a principle that was established by the law, it was actually introduced by the Father of Faith - Abraham.

Tithing is Abrahamic before it is Mosaic.

Therefore, tithing is a FAITH principle.

Abraham was the first to tithe, and his tithing laid out a pattern of faith. **Faith precedes** the law and it is by Grace **through faith** that we are grafted into the family line of Abraham.

When it comes to the Law, Jesus never came to throw out the law, He came to fulfill it. Look at the New Testament:

Jesus never said don't tithe

23 "What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are careful to tithe even the tiniest income from your herb gardens, but you ignore the more important aspects of the law—justice, mercy, and faith. You should tithe, yes, but do not neglect the more important things. **Matt 23:23 NLT**

Paul encouraged the Church to embrace the habit of setting aside their giving in accordance with their income on the first day of the week

Habitual giving not adhoc, emotional giving.

1 Corinthians 16:2 "On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made."

Jesus' call was to lay our whole lives down

Matthew 10:37-39 "Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. **38**Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. **39**Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it."

Giving 10% is not specifically in the New Testament not as a reason to avoid it but because 10% is by no means the ceiling. It is not about the amount but the HEART. It's not about obligation but about giving our whole heart and our whole heart to the Lord.

Matthew 22:37 Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'

Tithing is a starting point not a finish line.

WHY TITHE?

- Tithing provides for god's work through the church.
- Tithing teaches me to put god first.
- Tithing builds my faith in god.

Ultimately tithing proves God's **Lordship** in my life.

"If He is not Lord of all, he is not Lord at all."

If He is not FIRST in my FINANCES, He is not really first.

Finance doesn't just represent wealth, finance represents my life. We work and in exchange for our work we receive finance. Finance represents our time that we invest into work, so that we can live.

If I am living without God in my finances, then it is a huge part of my life that I have not invited God into.

Jesus said to the disciples, **"FOLLOW ME"**. Jesus didn't invite part of them to follow, He invited ALL OF THEM to follow.

Jesus said, love the Lord your God with ALL of your heart, ALL of your mind, ALL of your soul. If your money is not directed to God, then the ALL part is not true in your life.

God's plan is the LOCAL CHURCH. Not another Christian organisation. Not another justice organisation, it is primarily the Church.

The Church is the only thing Jesus said He would build. Why would we not be financially invested in the only thing He said He would build!

Week 4: GENEROSITY: It's about identity

Date: Sunday 31st August 2025

Key Point of this week: Generosity is a reflection of Christ in us; it's less about what we have and more about who we are.

Key Scripture/s: 2 Corinthians 8 and 9.

Our relationship with money as a follower of Jesus is very important.
Money is the God of this age.

Jesus was very clear that "...you cannot serve two masters, you will either love the one and hate the other or hate the one and love the other. You cannot serve both God and mammon."

Matthew 6:24

- So money becomes an issue of the heart.
- Money becomes an issue of trust. Money becomes an issue of Lordship.
- To be silent about money as a follower of Jesus is to be silent about one of the most relevant issues of our human experience.
-

Does the church want your money?

No, as the Church we want you to know Jesus, find community and discover purpose!

How you relate to money will either hinder or aid the most important call on your life - to know and to follow Jesus.

Supporting content:

—
*For God so **loved** the world **that he gave** ... John 3:16*

Deductive Reasoning.

What is God? God is ... Love.

What does God do? ... Gives.

If God is love ... and God gives —> **LOVE GIVES.**

If love gives, you can't love without giving.

2 Corinthians 8 and 9 unpack context

So Paul went to **Macedonian** churches ... Asked them to give...

Blown away by generosity—Writes to Corinthians—**2 Cor 8:1**...

2 Cor 8:1-2

And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. ²In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity.

They weren't generous out of their surplus, they were generous out of their poverty. Because generosity was **NOT** dependent on their status or their state... generous was who they are.

2 Cor 8:3-5

³For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, ⁴they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. ⁵And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us.

They gave generously and willingly!

2 Corinthians 9:6-7

⁶The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully^[a] will also reap bountifully. ⁷Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Western culture problem, we consume and do not have ENOUGH.

...You eat, but do not have enough; You drink, but you are not filled with drink; You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm; And he who earns wages, earns wages to put into a bag with holes. **Hag 1:6 NKJV**

**More money won't make you more generous.
It will make you more of what you already are.**

When I... then I...

No, we are generous now. And when we have more money...we will be more generous.

If we are not generous when we have less— we won't be generous when we have more.

God is love and God gives.

And we are children of God.

Generosity is who we are, because we are **children of God**.

