



THE ART OF LIVING WELL Participant Guide

September 20, 2020

Week 2 Reading Plan

Day 1-

READ: [Matthew 6:19-24](#)

REFLECT: This passage is from the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7), where Jesus describes how to live in God's Kingdom on earth. The day-to-day details of your personal life matter to God! How does where your treasure is influence your heart? If you look at your life honestly, which Master are you serving?

PRAY: Use [Psalm 139:23-24](#) to ask God to show you where your heart is serving the master of money and stuff, rather than serving Him.

PRACTICE: Take one step forward in allowing God to be your Master by choosing something to give away or give up this week.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: [How to Pursue Wealth as a Gift](#), an article from the Gospel Coalition.

Day 2-

READ: [Luke 12:13-21](#); [Romans 8:17](#)

REFLECT: *Life does not consist in the abundance of one's possessions.* How have you fallen into believing the lie that your life is valued by what you own? What does it look like to be *rich toward God* instead of rich in possessions? What is the significance of being an *heir of God*?

PRAY: Praise Jesus for His saving work- that you are a child of God and heir with Him. Confess the areas of your life that you believe the lie that possessions and money give you value. Pray for eyes to see your real value through the eyes of Christ.

WEEK 2 NEXT STEP: Use the tools at www.whoisgrace.com/theartoflivingwell to make a list of your current debt. Take the first step toward financial freedom- "we should not accept financial bondage as normal when Jesus died to make us free." (Pastor Derek)



Day 3-

READ: [Mark 10: 17-31](#)

REFLECT: The man in this story wanted to be good, and it appears he was trying hard. Jesus saw straight to his heart- *“you lack one thing...”* Why did the man walk away disheartened? What did the man keep by walking away? What did he give up? How does this weigh against the “suburban legend” that “more is always better?”

PRAY: *Jesus, you are worth following, worth loving, with my whole heart, soul and strength. Forgive me for hanging on tightly to _____ rather than trusting You. Help me to let go, to give more than I keep, to trust more than I worry, to want You more than anything. Amen.*

PRACTICE: Count the cost! Make two lists: 1- your most valued possessions; 2- the benefits of being a child of God, of being filled with the Spirit, of being saved by Jesus. Consider giving away one item from your home for each thing on that second list.

Day 4-

READ: [Proverbs 22:7](#); [Romans 6:22-23](#)

REFLECT: How is being in debt similar to slavery? How could you bring God praise and glory by being out of debt? What does it mean to be a *“slave of God”*?

PRAY/ PRACTICE: Pray for courage and wisdom to adjust your budget to pay off any debt you have faster. And then take a step to do it using the debt list you made on day 2.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

WATCH: Ron Blue explains the biblical and financial implications of debt in [Biblical Perspective on Debt](#), a Focus on the Family video.



Day 5-

READ: [Proverbs 11:28](#), [1 John 5:11-13](#)

REFLECT: How have you seen trusting in earthly riches fail you? Are you sure that you have eternal life? What do we need to have life according to John?

PRAY: If you haven't yet accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, you can do that now! Pray a prayer that acknowledges that He died for you, to take the death you deserve and that He rose to life so that you too might have abundant life. Confess how you have walked away from Him and His good plan for your life. Ask Him to be Lord of your heart, leader of your life, and thank Him for this gift of salvation!

If you do know Christ, pray for greater confidence in your salvation and the courage to live counter culturally for the rest of your life, especially in regard to your possessions and finances.