



Own the Mess | September 27, 2020 | Week 3 Reading Plan

Day 1 -

READ: [Proverbs 21:5](#), [Proverbs 25:28](#), [James 1:5](#)

REFLECT: The title this week's sermon is "Own the Mess". In what ways have your feelings of financial poverty or feelings of financial vulnerability been the result of your own financial decisions or practices? What are the decisions you have made or personal practices that you feel good about?

PRAY: Spend time praising God for the good that is happening and the opportunities that you have. Then, spend some time talking to God about your mess. Be specific about your situation(s). Tell Him your feelings and fears. Admit the impact your mess is having on others. Then, seek help such as asking for wisdom and asking for the right person to come alongside of you for help.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

PRACTICE:

1. Calculate your net worth according to Pastor Derek's simple suggestion - Calculate what you OWN and subtract what you OWE.
2. Find a budget tool at www.whoisgrace.com/theartoflivingwell to start tracking a weekly or monthly budget. Remember: INCOME – EXPENSES = ZERO

Day 2 -

READ: [Proverbs 21:5](#), [Proverbs 27:23](#)

REFLECT: In what ways are you a planner and in what ways do you tend to be hasty? When are you most in danger of allowing emotions to control your financial decisions? In what ways do you need to improve on the understanding of your financial situation?

PRAY: Pray throughout the day, using the simple prayers suggested by Pastor Derek, "God give me self-control", "God give me understanding", "God give me a plan."

PRACTICE:

1. Continue working on the budget tool you began yesterday!
2. If you are already a budgeter, take some time to review & refresh your budget. As you do, pray for open eyes to what God might have you to change, subtract or add.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

WATCH: This overview of [Proverbs](#) by the Bible Project helps us understand how this book of wisdom fits into God's word. [For a *free* RightNow Media account, sign up [here](#).]



Day 3 -

READ: [Philippians 4:10-20](#)

REFLECT: To close this letter, Paul is thanking the church in Philippi for the gift they sent to him while he is in prison. What do you learn about Paul? What do you learn about the church? How do you think Paul *learned* to be content? How could the spiritual practice of contentment help you to live within your means?

PRAY: Praise God for meeting your needs, for He is your Provider. Confess any lack of gratitude for what He has done and what He has given. Ask God to help you learn to be content each day. Remember Paul- he said he can do it but only through the strength Christ provides!

PRACTICE: Walk around your home/yard or write a list or doodle some images- actively engage your body and brain in thanking God for the many good things in your life.

Day 4 -

READ: [James 4:13-17](#)

REFLECT: How does this scripture caution against merely using good business sense in your financial dealings? Verse 15 reveals the ideal heart of any future planning- what kind of heart does James want Christ-followers to have? What is the difference between God-centered financial planning, and arrogant financial planning?

PRAY: Use the dream board you put together in week one and humbly surrender those dreams to God. Ask Him to show you the areas where you tend to make decisions and plan without seeking Him. Ask Him to lead you toward His best life for you.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: [Materialism is Easy to Decry and Hard to Avoid](#) from the Gospel Coalition.



Day 5 -

READ: [1 Chronicles 29:10-20](#)

REFLECT: At the end of his reign, King David offers up a prayer to the Lord in 1 Chronicles. What posture does this great King take before in Lord in the presence of all the people? David wasn't a perfect man or a perfect King, but he was called a man after God's own heart ([Acts 13:22](#)). Put yourself in the shoes of someone in the crowd- how are you inspired to have a heart like David's?

PRAY: Focus on worship. Use [Psalm 37](#), written by David, to lift up adoration, praise and worship to God as the one who provides.

PRACTICE: Keep working on your Budget!