



Living Like Tomorrow Matters | October 4, 2020 | Week 4 Reading Plan

Day 1-

READ: [Proverbs 6:6-11](#)

REFLECT: What do these verses tell you about preparing in advance for your future needs like emergencies or retirement? How is strategic financial planning a spiritual activity?

PRAY: Take some time to thank God for the way He provides for your material and financial needs, then ask Him to guide you as you make decisions for how to plan for the future.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

PRACTICE: Determine the next right step for future financial planning: SAVING or INVESTING? Set a realistic goal. In fact, pick a date! For example, "I will save \$\$ in 3 months." [Choose an appropriate tool](#) and get started!

Day 2-

READ: [Matthew 6:19-34](#)

READ: [What Does it Mean to Store Up Treasures in Heaven?](#)- an article from the Jesus Film Project, a Cru ministry

REFLECT: What does it mean to lay up treasures on earth vs. lay up treasures in heaven? Make a list of at least 10 ways God has met your physical needs this week and take time to thank Him. Now, make a list of 10 treasures in heaven that you long for God to develop in your life now.

PRAY/ PRACTICE: Jesus says in vs. 33 to "*seek FIRST the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.*" This week as you go into a store or look for something you need or want to buy online, stop and consciously ask God to help you want His righteousness more than anything. See how that changes your desires.



Day 3-

READ: [Luke 16:1-15](#)

REFLECT: In these verses Jesus is telling us to invest in things that matter not only for our own future needs but for eternity. He also says it is impossible to serve both God and money. In what ways do we 'serve money' in our society? How can you be free of that bondage?

PRAY/ PRACTICE: Tape a little note to your wallet or credit card this week that says "It all belongs to God" as a reminder that you are managing the money God has given to you. Pray a quick prayer of thanks each time you pay for something.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: "[The Rich Family in Our Church](#)", a true story of how a family learned they were rich from Bible.org.

REFLECT: Do you consider yourself rich? Why or why not? How does generous giving bring us a deeper sense of purpose and gratitude?

PRACTICE: Take the challenge over the next month to make a few lifestyle changes so you can make an investment in God's Kingdom and see how it changes the way you view your money. Consider these Kingdom investments: giving to [Grace Church](#), to the [Transform 1:8 campaign](#), to [ServErie](#) or to a neighbor in need.

Day 4-

READ: [1 Timothy 6:6-21](#)

REFLECT: How do the marketing practices in our society use discontentment to make us buy or consume more? Paul talks in vs. 6-10 about how discontentment leads to the love of money which is a root of all evil. In verse 11-12 what does Paul say is the antidote for the disease of consumerism?

PRAY/ PRACTICE: How can you pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, and gentleness? Write down some specific ideas and set a goal for one way today that you will pursue righteousness. Ask a friend or Life Group member to hold you accountable.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: "[Debt is Not a Money Problem](#)", an article from Desiring God about discontentment



REFLECT: What are some material things that produce a longing in you, tempting you to feel discontent? How can you fight that temptation and practice contentment?

PRACTICE: Go to the website of a Christian organization that works among the needy of the Erie region or world (see examples below) and investigate how much difference you can make in the life of someone in need for a small sacrifice. Pray and ask God to help you learn to be content with a little less so you can help those who need so much.

Erie: [ServErie](#)

World: [Samaritan's Purse](#) or [World Vision](#)

Day 5-

READ: [Luke 12:13-34](#)

REFLECT: What advice does Jesus give in this passage about what is foolish and what is wise? Jesus says, *"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."* Why do you think he mentioned your treasure first, followed by your heart? What do you truly treasure? Is that reflected in where you choose to spend your time and money?

PRAY: God is certainly not in need. He doesn't need our money, but He does want our hearts. Pray and ask God to help you take the first step you need to take to surrender your finances to His control so your heart will follow Him more deeply.