



# MAKING CHANGE

INVESTING IN YOUR FINANCIAL HEALTH

## SERIES OVERVIEW

Money is one of the chief concerns of the Bible. By some estimates, more than 5% of all passages of scripture deal with wealth, poverty, or generosity in some way, as do upwards of 20% of Jesus' teachings. Is this really any surprise? Humanity's relationship with our wealth (or lack thereof) is a massive and ongoing concern throughout our lives.

It may feel like we are living in uniquely challenging financial times, but there is rich comfort to be had in realizing that our spiritual ancestors wrestled with many of the same issues and concerns. Thankfully, they have left us a treasure trove of wisdom about how to not only serve God with our finances, but to find true contentment as well. In this series, we will begin to explore the Bible's teachings about money as we prepare Grace Church for an ongoing investment in our congregation's financial health.

## WEEK 1 - STEWARDSHIP OVERVIEW

At the very beginning of the biblical narrative, God places the human in the garden "to tend and watch over it." This role, as a steward of God's good creation, becomes a fundamental image of humanity's place in this world throughout the Bible, and it plays a major role in the biblical conception of wealth and possessions. To the biblical authors, the things we own are not actually ours at all; they're God's. We are simply stewards, and it is our responsibility to ensure that our resources are being used for the things he cares about, instead of merely using them for our own interests.

In a time of financial anxiety and ruthless self-sufficiency, this is no easy task. Stewardship is not a guilt trip to give more away, but a call to surrender control to God and trust that he will give us more than enough to not only lead to our own flourishing, but to heal this broken world as well.

Biblical Financial Wisdom Principle #1: Spend Less Than You Earn

*No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money.*

**Luke 16:13**

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How would you describe your relationship with money?
2. Read [Psalm 24:1](#), [Psalm 50:10](#), [Genesis 2:15](#), and [Luke 16:10-13](#).
  - a. What is stewardship, and how does it apply to you?
  - b. How is stewardship of money connected to the health of your soul?
3. Read [Isaiah 58:7-8](#), [Malachi 3:10](#), and [1 Timothy 6:17-18](#). What happens when we give generously to causes God cares about?
4. What is the difference between trusting in God and trusting in *mammon* (wealth, riches)?
5. Based on your experience, what advice would you give someone regarding stewardship?