

## Where does our treasure lie?

**Vision:** to surface our attitudes to money and possessions and allow God to search and shape them through his Word and Holy Spirit

### **Matthew 6: 19-24; 33-34**

#### **Questions to discuss:**

1. What does it mean to serve money? What examples do we have of when we do this?
2. What does it mean to store up treasure in heaven? How can we do this?
3. How is Jesus' teaching different from our culture?
4. What does this passage tell us we should focus on? What does this mean for us in balancing hard work and saving with God's kingdom priorities?
5. What does this mean for those in our community and worldwide who are genuinely struggling to have enough for their basic needs? What is our responsibility to them?

#### **Act of Love**

Reflect on our own attitudes to money: where are we storing our treasure? how content are we with what we have? how is my attitude to work and supporting my family and others?

Prayerfully choose one action this week where you will store up treasure in heaven by serving others, especially those who are struggling most.

#### **Going deeper and preparing for the next study:**

Divide up the verses from the 'Money Matters' next study among the group, with the relevant questions. Ask each person to reflect on their passage and the questions before the next time we meet and to bring back some thoughts and reflections from that to the group.

#### **Summary for facilitator: (over page)**

**Summary for facilitator:**

Our focus in life should not be on having the most money possible. It should be on living in a way that honours God. To live a fulfilled life of peace, we cannot be lovers of money. When we die, we will not take our money or possessions with us. Not serving money does not mean we should not think about money. Verses like 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15, 1 Timothy 5:8 and Ephesians 4:28 remind us that God expects us to work hard and be wise stewards.

- Paul says *“We were not idle when we were with you, nor did we eat anyone’s food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, labouring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you.” 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15*
- He also says *“Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.” 1 Timothy 5:8*
- *“Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.” Eph 4:28*

However, it is vital that we should not let money control us, either by endlessly worrying about it or always trying to make more and more.