



ROAD TO FINANCIAL FREEDOM

YOUR PERSONAL JOURNEY

4-Week Series

FEATURED CURRICULUM

Adult Lesson Handouts

Church Instructions and Overview

These Adult Lesson Handouts are designed to support the corresponding sermon outline topics presented by the pastor during the Road to Financial Freedom sermon series. When used during group Bible study before or after the pastor's sermon, these lessons will reinforce what is being taught during the churchwide service.

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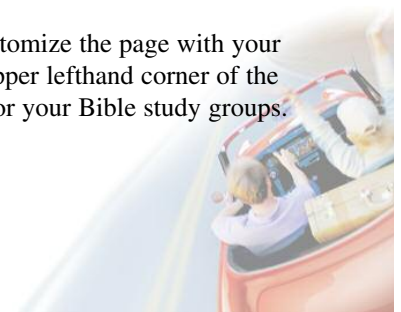
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Supporting Resources

We recommend promoting your series several weeks ahead of time. A promotional video and promotional artwork have been provided to help you promote your church's Road to Financial Freedom Series. Poster and bulletin insert artwork is provided, as well as custom artwork to create your own custom promotional items such as banners, overhead projection artwork, bookmarks, tickets, postcards, door hangers, and more. Consult your Series CD for more information.

Customizing Your Handouts

Each beginning page of the Lesson Handout and Leader's Guide has a section where you can customize the page with your church name, date, alternate lesson title, or study week. In the Adobe PDF document, click the upper lefthand corner of the page to activate the field, and you will be able to type in this information before making copies for your Bible study groups.



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ROAD TO FINANCIAL FREEDOM

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FEATURED CURRICULUM

“Who’s in Control?”

God’s Responsibilities and Our Responsibilities

WELCOME TO THE ROAD TO FINANCIAL FREEDOM!

Money affects every part of our lives today. Some people have these immediate questions about money:

- Why is it important to learn what God says about money?
- What does it mean to be financially free?
- Is being financially free becoming rich?
- Is being financially free about more than money?

This abbreviated study will help answer these questions and more. We sincerely hope it will help you start on a path to reduced stress and strengthened relationships with friends and loved ones.

Most of all, remember that it’s not just about money—it’s about a change of the heart.

THIS WEEK’S INTRODUCTION

Many people are experiencing financial challenges. They are facing growing debt, little or no savings, inadequate income, and no plans for their financial future. Surveys reveal that more than half of all divorces are a result of financial tension in the home.

Others are financially sound, but suffocating materialism has robbed them of their spiritual vitality. They are not spending their resources in eternally significant ways.

Fortunately, the Bible has the answers to these financial difficulties—it contains more than 2,350 verses dealing with money and possessions. In fact, Jesus Christ said more about money than almost any other subject. Financial matters are addressed throughout Scripture for both spiritual and practical reasons.

WHY THE LORD SAYS SO MUCH ABOUT MONEY

1. Spiritual Reasons

How we handle money has a significant impact on the _____ of our relationship with Christ.

“If therefore you are not faithful in the use of worldly wealth, who will entrust the true riches to you” (Luke 16:11).

Money is a primary competitor with Christ for the _____ of our life.

“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other. . . . You cannot serve God and money” (Matthew 6:24).

2. Practical Reasons

The Lord wanted to give us a blueprint for handling our money. Scripture gives us clear principles for earning, spending, saving, investing, giving, getting out of debt, and teaching our children how to handle money.

The financial practices of most people are in sharp _____ to the principles of Scripture.

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways,” declares the Lord. ‘For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts’” (Isaiah 55:8-9).

GOD’S PART IN OUR FINANCES

Scripture teaches there are two distinct responsibilities in the handling of money: the part God plays and the part we play.

1. _____

God is the owner of everything. Psalm 24:1 reads, *“The earth is the Lord’s, and all it contains.”*

If we are going to be genuine followers of Christ, we must transfer the ownership of our possessions to the Lord (Luke 14:33).

The first step in learning _____ is recognizing God is the owner of all your possessions.

2. Control

Our heavenly Father is in ultimate _____ of every event.

“We adore you as being in control of everything” (1 Chronicles 29:11, TLB). “I praised the Most High. . . . He does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back his hand or say to him: ‘What have you done?’” (Daniel 4:34-35).



It is comforting for the child of God to realize that his heavenly Father orchestrates even seemingly devastating circumstances for ultimate good.

“And we know that God causes _____ to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose” (Romans 8:28).

3. Provision

The Lord promises to _____ for our needs. Jesus said, *“But seek first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things (food and clothing) shall be added unto you” (Matthew 6:33).*

God is both _____ and unpredictable. He is absolutely predictable in His faithfulness to provide. What we cannot predict is how the Lord will provide.

The basic reason most fail to recognize God’s part is that we do not know who God really is. We tend to _____ Him down to our own human abilities and limitations.

“You are _____ with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O Lord” (Psalm 139:3-4, NIV).

OUR PART

Our responsibility is that of a _____ or manager of the Lord’s possessions.

Our responsibility is to be _____ stewards.

“It is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful” (1 Corinthians 4:2).

Although most of us have heard that we should give 10 percent of our income, few have learned the biblical basis for handling the other _____ percent.

Faithful in little things.

“He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much” (Luke 16:10).

Small things are small things, but faithfulness with a _____ thing is a _____ thing.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Describe the most important principle you learned in this lesson.



2. How will applying this principle impact you?

3. This series will address many financial issues from God’s perspective, such as earning, spending, saving, giving, investing, getting out of debt, and teaching children how to handle money. What would be the one thing you want to happen as you learn and apply these principles?

SAMPLE



Visit **Crown.org** for free online tools, resources, articles, and more to help you on your journey to financial freedom. Available 24/7, there’s something for everyone no matter your current point on the journey.

Our Part
steward; faithful; 90; small; big

God’s Part
1. Ownership; contentment
2. control; all things
3. provide; predictable; shrink; familiar

ANSWERS
Introduction
1. intimacy; lordship
2. contrast



