



# IN GOD WE TRUST

## WEEK 1 - THE ATTITUDE OF TRUST

### MESSAGE BIG IDEA

God will transform our attitude about money when we choose to trust his wisdom about finances and generosity.

### ICE BREAKER & OPENING THOUGHT

The purpose of these questions is to start a conversation. Don't worry about everyone sharing something life-changing, just get everyone comfortable talking and sharing.

### LIFE APPLICATION

1. It may be helpful to share these statistics with the group and ask some questions. Did you know that 16 of the 38 parables of Jesus deal with money? There are four times more Bible verses dealing with money and possessions than prayer (2000 vs. 500). There is more in the New Testament about money than heaven and hell combined. Why do you think that is? The topic of money is a challenging one to speak on in church settings. Why is that? How can we have a healthy conversation around finances in our group?
2. Help the group explore the tendency we have to wanting "a little bit more." How have you seen that in yourself? What do you tell yourself about "enough?" What does our broader culture say about satisfaction with our possessions? King Solomon was one of the wisest and wealthiest who ever lived. He said, "Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income" Ecclesiastes 5:10
3. See these comments by N.T. Wright for some thoughts on trusting God: "In a world increasingly dominated by money it seems almost indecent to mention it, but the New Testament, as so often, is severely practical, and reminds us of facts our culture wants us to forget. Money comes and goes; God doesn't. Money can't be relied upon, and even those who have plenty of it discover all too soon that it doesn't buy them contentment (back, again, to verse 8). If you have trained yourself only to get enjoyment from things that cost money, you need to go into a different sort of training." (*Tom Wright, Paul for Everyone: The Pastoral Letters: 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus (London: Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, 2004), 77.*)
4. The statements about storing up treasure in heaven and embracing a life that is truly life are not about someone buying their way to heaven, rather they envision a person who has used their great wealth to the benefit of others and whose overflowing generosity is so appealing to the people around them, which imitates the character of God.

### CHALLENGE

Make a point to be at services for the next two weeks or watch the message on line. There are so many passages in the New Testament about money, because our attitudes and actions around money reveal the real source of our hope and satisfaction. Let's commit to asking God to reveal to us over the next few weeks how we can learn to trust him with our whole lives including our finances.

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[communitychristian.org/ingodwetrustresources/](http://communitychristian.org/ingodwetrustresources/)