

The Treasure Principle

Small Group Discussion Questions



Chapter 1

1. Describe one experience you would love to spend \$1,000 for, knowing that there was no return on your investment?
2. Is it significant that 15% of Christ's teaching deals with money and possessions? If so, why? Does this surprise you? (9)
3. What does the author mean when he describes your spending habits "proof" of your spiritual condition? (11)
4. What are some ways to store up for yourself treasures in heaven? (15)
5. What is meant by the phrase "deferred gratification"? What does this look like for you personally? (16)
6. How do you feel when you read that "you can send it on ahead"? (18)

Chapter 2

1. What does a money manager do? What does it mean that you are God's money manager? (25)
2. What is the difference between "thinking like an owner" and "thinking like a money manager"?
3. Alcorn says, "One of our central spiritual decisions is determining what is a reasonable amount to live on." How much thought have you given to this "central spiritual decision"? (27)
4. How should God's grace motivate us to give? (31)
5. What does it mean that giving is an act of worship? Do you view giving with this perspective? (33)
6. What personal attitudes or actions would change to see every moment of an ordinary day as eternally important? (35)

Chapter 3

1. Have you ever considered that Jesus himself considers your smallest acts of kindness? How does this make you feel? (39)
2. What is one gift you have given that was incredibly fun to give? Why was it such a significant experience for you? (39)
3. Treasure Principle Key #2 reads, "My heart always goes where I put God's money." How is this true in your life? (43)
4. Do you feel threatened by the idea that someone might ask you to give your money to ministry?
5. Depending on your age and life situation, what would be your first thought if you discovered that someone was trying to convince your child or your parents to give a majority of their money to a church or ministry? (45)

Chapter 4

1. If you woke up tomorrow morning and prayed, “Lord help me to live for the line instead of the dot today,” how would your day be different? (50)
2. What are some practical things you will do this week to not live for the dot but for the line? (50)
3. React to the following statement: “Nothing makes a journey more difficult than a backpack filled with nice but unnecessary things. Pilgrims travel light.” What does it practically mean to “travel light?” (53)
4. Have you ever encountered a person whose possessions “own them?” What did this look like—especially in terms of their energy and attention? (54)
5. Do you think of materialism as a deadly poison you are desperately seeking an antidote for? Why or why not? (57)
6. God’s money has a higher purpose than our affluence, but we often seek an affluent lifestyle to feel significant. What are some ways to live differently in this regard?

Chapter 5

1. What are some things that would change if God truly got your first, not your last? (62)
2. What are your thoughts on the paragraphs (pp. 62-63) starting, "Jesus validated...He never lowered it?"
3. How would your perspective shift to believe that "tithing isn't the ceiling of giving, it's the floor." (64)
4. Does giving as Alcorn describes it (pp. 68-70) feel irresponsible? Why or why not?
5. Imagine a time when you got a raise at work, and your first thought was "Awesome Lord, now I have more to give away!" (Treasure Principle Key #6) (75) Does that differ from your first thoughts of a raise in the past?
6. Consider the following quote: "Abundance isn't God's provision for me to live in luxury. It's His provision for me to help others live. God entrusts me with this money not to build my kingdom on earth, but to build His kingdom in heaven"? What impact could our church make if we each lived with this perspective? (77)

Chapter 6

1. Take a moment to write a single paragraph to be included in your obituary. This paragraph would just describe your financial situation. It should include what you owned, what you left behind and to whom, and what was important to you.
2. Why do you think we rarely include money as a part of our accountability and spiritual disciplines? (84)
3. What would it mean to you personally to realize that you are part of a bigger destiny? How would it impact your financial management? (86)
4. How do you choose who to give your money to? Do you start with the church? Why or why not?
5. Review the Treasure Principle and Treasure Principle Keys on page 95. Which of the keys has most impacted you? Why?
6. Read the Giving Covenant on page 96. Would you be willing to commit to these things?

Additional Resources for Growth

TRAINING

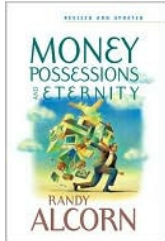


Financial Peace University is a life-changing program that teaches you how to make the right decisions with your money. You'll be empowered with the practical skills and confidence needed to achieve your financial goals and experience true financial peace!

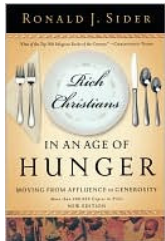
This 13 week video-based course is currently being offered on Sunday nights. If you are interested in participating in a future FPU class, please contact Ken Garris at ken.garris@gmail.com.

READING

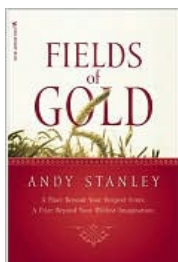
(in alphabetical order)



Money, Possessions and Eternity
by Randy Alcorn



Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger
by Ronald J. Sider



Fields of God
by Andy Stanley