

PAUL DE JONG

GOD
Money
& ME

GROUP LEADER'S E-GUIDE

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	03
GETTING THE BEST OUT OF YOUR GROUP	04
SESSION ONE: MONEY'S MYTHS	07
SESSION TWO: MONEY'S SPIRIT	09
SESSION THREE: MONEY'S TEST	11
SESSION FOUR: MONEY'S MULTIPLICATION	13
SESSION FIVE: MONEY'S PATHWAY	15

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the beginning of the leaders guide to the *God Money & Me* curriculum! We are praying that, as you take hold of this guide, you will gain a fresh sense of the importance of this subject in all of our lives. While money is neither good nor evil in its own right, the *Bible* is very clear about the hold it can have. As you lead your group through this study, you will be fostering discussions and help impart revelation that can lead to liberty and an unlocking of God’s purpose in the lives of those in your group. This study is not about controlling people’s money; it’s about seeing God’s design for humanity realized.

This guide contains suggested outlines and questions for each week, as well as some helpful hints in facilitating your group. Figure out what works for you and your group and go for it!

GETTING THE BEST OUT OF YOUR GROUP

Many of us probably have an image in our minds of the ideal group facilitator. Rest assured: God uses all personality types and all experiences. What will make you an effective group facilitator is not so much in what you bring to the group but what you bring out of the others in your group.

A few tips to help you along the way:

1. BE YOURSELF

Nothing is more attractive in a leader than authenticity and transparency. You don't need to know the answer to every question, or even pretend to. When your group understands that you are just as committed to studying, listening and learning as they are, it will give them the freedom to talk things out.

Do you love baking? Bring baking along. Is your group mostly older than yourself? Encourage them to add their wisdom and experiences to the conversation. Do you have a knack for administration? Work out rosters to cover any venue or refreshment needs you may have. Don't try and copy how someone else leads – use the strengths you have.

2. UNDERSTAND YOUR ROLE

Take a deep breath: being all-knowing is God's job, not yours. Your role is facilitate a group's discussion, not to be a star performer/academic/counselor. When we approach the *Bible*, we approach God-breathed Scripture (*2 Timothy 3:16-17*) which speaks to such effect to even discern between soul and spirit (*Hebrews 4:12*). Pray at the start of each meeting and invite the Holy Spirit to be with you. He is the one who changes us – a leader's job is just to provide an atmosphere and environment for that to happen. What a relief!

3. BE PREPARED

Being ill-prepared is very difficult to hide. Regardless of the format of your group, people are investing the time because they believe it's important. If they sense you're always operating on the fly, they may become discouraged and stop turning up, this is particularly true when it comes to the subject of money.

Make sure you've given yourself adequate time in the week to go over the video and make notes where helpful. Plan an outline for the meeting in advance. Whether you meet in a home, a café, your church or someone else, make sure you or an assistant are there before the others so you can welcome them when they arrive. Ensure the space is welcoming and neat. Do whatever you can in advance so you're mentally present when the conversation is opening up.

4. CREATE SPACE FOR EVERYONE TO CONTRIBUTE

The members of your group may run the gamut of talkative and opinionated to extremely timid and reserved. Your challenge is to give everyone an opportunity to express their thoughts and play their part. This might look like asking a quieter member what they think on a topic or to read from a passage or to pray at the end. It may at times require you to ask a dominating contributor to wait a moment why we ask another member of the group what they think. Look at ways to include everyone.

5. BE CREATIVE

Bring your innovation to the group by keeping things fresh. You might want to give your group plasticine and ask them to mould something that represents their perspective on money. Maybe it's running a different theme for refreshments each week. Whatever it is, don't feel boxed in to a formula each week. Make sure you are making the most of the topic and conversation is flowing. Other than that – the sky's the limit.

6. SILENT PAUSES ARE OKAY

It is easy to think that silence during a group is a sign of disaster. It can often be the opposite – it may mean people are thinking. Don't be afraid to have some pauses in the conversation. Spreading the involvement by asking questions around the focus you are on, will create response. People are more likely to really think through a question when they know they need to answer it.

7. UNDERSTAND TRUST GROWS

Sharing thoughts can be quite vulnerable. People may feel their opinions are inadequate or that they struggle where everyone else glides on with ease. It usually takes one person to confess they are finding the topic challenging for others to also admit this.

As a group leader, affirm people's thoughts, especially when they require vulnerability. Thank them for their honesty. If they disagree with you or the teaching, that's okay – ask

them why and let the group work it through. Your own honesty will create a greater lean in. When people realize you genuinely care about them and their thoughts, it will inspire them to speak truthfully and apply the conversation to their own lives. This is what a group is all about.

8. CHALLENGE WITH GRACE AND LOVE

Occasionally, you may need to dig deeper into someone’s answer. Maybe someone consistently says “I don’t know” when asked a question. It’s okay to ask them to elaborate or follow up with another question. Make sure this is communicated without aggression or frustration. If they are stuck, tell them you will come back to them. Encourage your group to reflect on their opinions without making them feel like they are under attack. Remember the subject of *God Money & Me* is strongly based in God’s word and all of our opinions need to ultimately be challenged to align to Gods way.

9. BE HAPPY TO TAKE THE BACK SEAT

If the conversation is flowing without you leading it – well done! The ultimate result is that the members of your group would feel comfortable enough to share their thoughts and ask questions of each other. You may need to step in now and then to help keep things on track but let them explore other questions and tangents that relate to the big picture.

10. PRAY FOR YOUR GROUP

One of the greatest things a group leader can do is pray. Pray for them in their personal lives. Pray that the Holy Spirit would cause His Word to come alive to them in a new way. Pray that they would get a deeper revelation about the hope of their calling (*Ephesians 1:18*). Prayer invites God in to do what only He can do.

SESSION ONE: MONEY’S MYTHS

BEFORE YOU MEET

You know what they say – you only get to make a first impression once. In preparation for your first session, make sure you have an idea of how many people you are expecting and plan accordingly. Send out a reminder of what time you are meeting and where. Remind everyone to read through Part One of *God Money & Me*. Pray for the session.

DURING THE SESSION

Welcome everyone when they arrive. Make sure you have their contact details if they are new. As this first session is to set the scene for the study, give a good amount of time for people to connect with one another. If the group don’t all know each other well, run an icebreaker that will help people relax. You could ask people to tell two truths and a lie and get the others to guess what is what.

Before the session starts, you may want to get your group thinking about their preconceptions of money. The below questions can help get the conversation rolling:

1. What is the worst thing you have ever spent money on?
2. How would you describe money’s role in your culture and community?
3. In your family while growing up, was money seen as a positive, a negative or a neutral factor?
4. What are you hoping to get out of this study?

PLAY VIDEO PART ONE: MONEY’S MYTHS

KEY POINTS

1. God wants us to be fruitful and have an abundance for every good work.
2. If we are not intentional about money, it will disempower, distract or dominate us.
3. God wants us to prosper, not only for our freedom, but for the freedom of others.
4. God never intended us to remain silent about money.
5. Money releases Kingdom purpose.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Has your perspective on money been challenged this week? If so, how?
2. Why do you think money seems to attract so much attention?
3. If money wasn't a limitation, what would you do with your life?
4. Which of the money myths challenged you most? Why?
5. When it comes to your personal finances, where would you like God's wisdom and direction?

Encourage your group members to turn up every week. Have someone pray for your group or get them to pray in small groups.

Remind everyone to read Part Two of *God Money & Me* before your next get together.

SESSION TWO: MONEY'S SPIRIT

BEFORE YOU MEET

Prepare a plan for your next meeting.

Contact your group mid-week to thank them for coming last week and encourage them to turn up this week. Remind them about reading part two of *God Money & Me*. Pray for your group.

DURING THE SESSION

Between your first session and today, your group will have been thinking about money and the role it plays. Maybe they have discussed this teaching with friends and family outside of the group, all with varying responses. Talk through their thoughts and the questions that have come up from last week. Where have they inherited their financial convictions from? Are they replicating what was modeled to them by their parents/guardians? Are they living in reaction to their upbringing?

PLAY VIDEO PART TWO: MONEY'S SPIRIT

KEY POINTS

1. Mammon is a spirit that attaches to unsurrendered money.
2. Mammon is a spirit that draws us away from God's plans and purposes.
3. Money is a divine testing ground of who gets priority in our world.
4. Mammon is deceptive and controlling and seeks worship.
5. Financial breakthrough requires freedom from destructive debt, a strong work ethic and financial accountability.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What does a “spirit of mammon” mean to you? How would you describe it to someone who has never read or heard the *Bible* before?
2. Have you seen money dominate the lives of others? How did it affect the way they lived and treated others?
3. How can mammon deceive us?
4. How do we balance being wise with money without letting it control us?
5. Give a personal definition mammon.

Have someone pray for the group for wisdom, discernment and any needs the group may have.

Remind everyone to read Part Three of *God Money & Me* before your next get together.

SESSION THREE: MONEY’S TEST

BEFORE YOU MEET

Prepare your plan for the next session.

Pray for your group – ask God to guard their minds and hearts against any work of the enemy. The session includes a focus on tithing. Could you ask a few people in your group who have been tithing for a while to bring a quick thought on why they do this?

DURING THE SESSION

You’re almost halfway! During this session, you’ll be discussing tithing. This may be a great opportunity for you to share about your own experience with tithing. If you have someone in your group who has been tithing for a while, ask them to share on why this is a commitment in their life.

PLAY VIDEO PART THREE: MONEY’S TEST

KEY POINTS

1. We tithe from an understanding of God’s sovereignty – it’s a decision of trust.
2. Tithing is not a matter of generosity but returning to God what is His.
3. God says we can test Him in His response to our tithing.
4. We tithe on every material increase.
5. The tithe belongs in God’s house.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Do you think tithing is important for our spiritual walk? Why/why not?
2. Where does *Malachi 3:6-10* say to bring the tithe? What does that mean for us today and why do you think God specifies where it belongs?
3. Do you have a tithe plan at present? If not, what would yours look like?

4. Why is our attitude important when it comes to tithing? What could be detrimental about giving begrudgingly or out of fear?
5. Why do you think God wants us to tithe?
6. Have you ever trusted God for a financial miracle? What happened?

Encourage the group to keep an open heart to the *Bible* and the Holy Spirit during this process. Talk about what you might do to celebrate the end of the course – a potluck dinner, etc. Finish with prayer.

Remind everyone to read Part Four of *God Money & Me* before your next get together.

SESSION FOUR: MONEY'S MULTIPLICATION

BEFORE YOU MEET

Prepare your plan for the next session.

Pray for your group.

Contact your team during the week to encourage them there are two important weeks to go and remind them to have read Part Four of *God Money & Me*.

DURING THE SESSION

Today's session talks about having a Kingdom purpose and a lean in spirit. Start the discussion with people who inspire your group members. Does our attitude make a difference and if so why?

PLAY VIDEO PART FOUR: MONEY'S MULTIPLICATION

KEY POINTS

1. To actively receive from God, we need to be willing and expectant participants.
2. God responds to an activated and persistent ask.
3. Our future reflects the seed we have sown.
4. When we sow seed in expectant soil (faith), we can expect a harvest.
5. God looks for channels through which He can bless others.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Do you believe God wants to bless you and see you become a blessing? Why/why not?
2. Why do you think God blessed Jabez?
3. Why do you think God wants us to be persistent? What does it teach us?

4. Has a situation in the past limited you from asking Him for more?
5. Why is faith important in sowing seed?
6. How would you like God to use you as a financial channel of blessing for others?

Have someone pray for the group. Again remind everyone to read Part Five of *God Money & Me* before your next get together.

SESSION FIVE: MONEY'S PATHWAY

BEFORE YOU MEET

Prepare your plan for the final session as this is where it all comes together.

Pray for your group.

Look into some practical tools/apps you can recommend to your group if they want to start/improve their financial management.

DURING THE SESSION

During this session, you'll be discussing some very practical matters around stewarding, seeding, saving and spending. Maybe you, a friend or a group member has some expertise in financial management and can provide a basic template for creating a budget. You may choose to talk this through or just bring it the attention of your group.

PLAY VIDEO PART FIVE: MONEY'S PATHWAY

KEY POINTS

1. God's desire for us is to have sufficiency: a perfect state of living in which no physical aid of extra support is needed.
2. Tithing is stewarding; being faithful with what belongs to God.
3. Seeding is guaranteeing a harvest for the future.
4. Saving is creating a legacy to bless the generations to come.
5. Spending wisely means practicing delayed gratification and living within our means.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How would living with “all sufficiency” change how you activated your finances?
2. Do you have a system set up like the ‘10/10/10/70 PRINCIPLE’? How would it challenge you? How would it help you?

3. Did your parents save anything for you and/or your siblings? If so, how did it set you up for future success?
4. What would be your greatest hurdle to creating a financial pathway?
5. What out of Stewarding, Seeding, Saving or Spending would be your greatest challenge?
6. How could you increase your income?
7. What will you do differently now you have completed this study?

Pray for your group. Ask for God to direct and bless them. Thank them for being part of this study.