

spiritual infant

DISCIPLE ME

THE ONE ABOUT MONEY PART 3: ONE HEART & MIND

ICEBREAKER: WHAT'S WORTH MORE

We all make value decisions every day - what's worth our time, attention, and money. To help us think about what we really value, have your group read each of the pairs listed below out loud. Then have everyone vote for which one they feel is "worth more." Let's see what's really valuable to you.

Coffee **OR** Wi-Fi

Time **OR** Money

Smartphone **OR** Car

Free Pizza for a Year **OR** Free Gas for a Year

New Shoes **OR** New Tech

Weekend Away **OR** Day with No Responsibilities

Beach Vacay **OR** Debt Free

In Person Church **OR** Watching Online

Full Night Sleep **OR** Brilliant Idea

Fun Now **OR** Security Later

Promotion at Work **OR** Peace of Mind

Being Right **OR** Being Considerate

DISCUSS

- What did your choices reveal about what you value most?
- How do we decide what something is really "worth"?
- Why do you think our values can shift depending on our circumstances?

READ & DISCUSS: THE FIRST CHURCH

All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. With great power, the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there were no needy persons among them. From time to time, those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales, and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

-Acts 4:32-35

In the early church, people started to see everything - their time, money, and possessions - through a new lens. What they valued most wasn't temporary comfort, but eternal purpose. In this picture of the early church, something radical is happening. Their shared faith didn't just change their Sunday schedule; it changed their entire relationship with their entire world.

They didn't see their possessions as private property but as part of a shared mission. They didn't give out of guilt; they generously gave because they had been changed by God's grace.

- What do you think it means when it says they were of "one in heart and mind"? Is that kind of unity achievable today?
- Why do you think generosity became such a natural response for the early church after encountering Jesus?
- In what ways do our culture's views of money and possessions compete with the values of God's Kingdom?

STUDY: THE SECRET OF CONTENTMENT

One of the quiet miracles in Acts 4 isn't just what people gave. It's what they didn't need to keep. The believers in the early church had found something money couldn't buy: *contentment*. They were so captured by Jesus and His mission that they didn't feel the same pull toward possessions or status. Their joy didn't depend on what they owned; it came from knowing *who they belonged to*. That's why they could live with such open hands.

When your heart is secure in Christ, you don't have to cling to what's temporary. Contentment frees you to give generously, live simply, and love freely. Paul later wrote about the secret to contentment.

Read Philippians 4:11-13

- According to Paul, where is the secret of contentment found?
- Why do you think contentment can be so hard to hold onto in our culture and in our lives?

CHALLENGE: ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

This week, look for one simple way to bless someone else from what you already have - your time, encouragement, a meal, or even something you own but don't really need. Maybe it's clothes you haven't worn, tools you rarely use, or items that could meet someone else's need better than sitting on your shelf. When we live open-handed with both our hearts *and* our stuff, our community grows stronger and our gratitude grows deeper. Trust in the promise of the scriptures that "*You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion.*" - 2 Corinthians 9:11