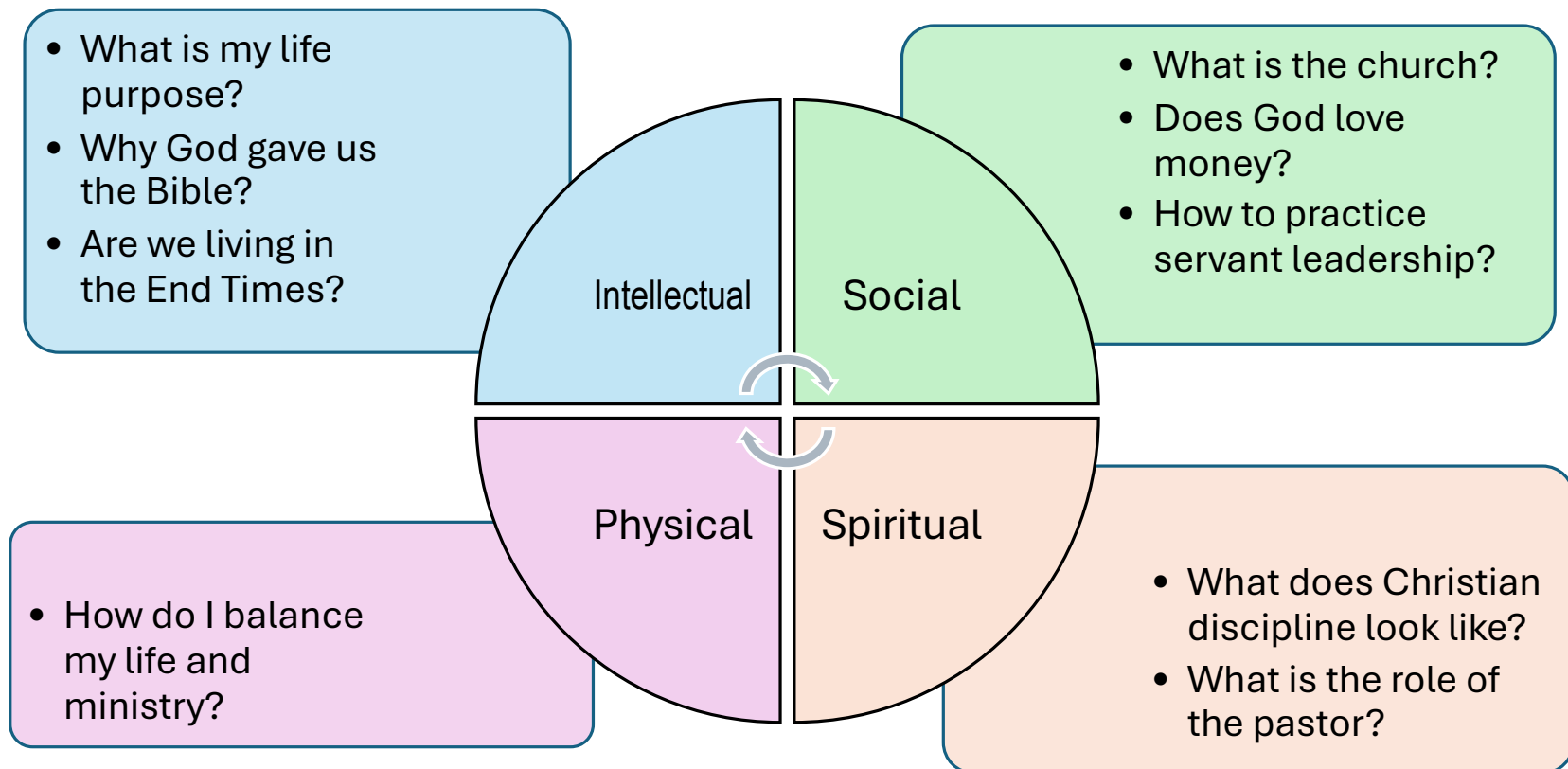




Holistic Growth For Ministry Impact

Session 5
God & Money

Session Topics



God Cares about your Finances



- A critical issue to God and us
 - There are over 2,350 verses in the Bible that deal with our money & possessions.
 - Jesus says more about money than any other subject.
- Your money management matters to God
 - Money shows what you love most.
 - Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be (Matthew 6:21)
 - Money shows what you really trust most.
 - Do you trust in your money for security? Or do you trust in God? Do you trust in money to provide happiness, or do you trust in God for your happiness?
 - Money shows if God can trust you.
 - How you handle money determines how much God can bless your life. Once you understand that there is a direct connection between money management and God's blessing, you will be motivated to get your finances in order so that God will bless you with spiritual power.

5 Biblical Principles for Finance



1. God is the source of everything. God owns everything;

- Don't put your confidence in something that can be taken from you.
 - Owner (Exclusive rights and control over property)
 - Steward (The careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care)
- To the LORD your God belong the heavens, even the highest heavens, the earth and everything in it (Deuteronomy 10:14)
- For every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills. I know every bird in the mountains, and the insects in the fields are mine (Psalm 50:10-11)
- Remember that we are only trustees, stewards; We are just managers!

2. Use your money to grow your character;

- We like to spend money on comfort, but the Bible teaches that it is wiser to invest in character. God wants you to develop skills and educate yourself so that you can become the kind of person he has shaped you to be.
- Truth, wisdom, learning, and good sense, these are worth paying for, but too valuable for you to sell (Proverbs 23:23 GNT).
- Grow in spiritual strength and become better acquainted with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18 TLB).

3. Use the money to bring people to Christ;

- Use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings (Luke 16:9)
- By doing this they will be storing up real treasure for themselves in heaven, it is the only safe investment for eternity! And they will be living a fruitful Christian life down here as well (1 Timothy 6:19,TLB)



4. Enjoy what you have;

- But godliness with contentment is great gain (1 Timothy 6:6)
- For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.

5. Grow in Generosity;

- Whenever we give, we are giving our gift to the Lord Himself. It becomes an act of worship;
- Excel in this grace of giving (2 Corinthians 8:7)
- Be rich in good deeds, and be generous and willing to share (1 Timothy 6:18)
- The wicked borrow and do not repay, but the righteous give generously (Psalm 37:21)
- You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive' (Acts 20:35)

Beware the Love of Money

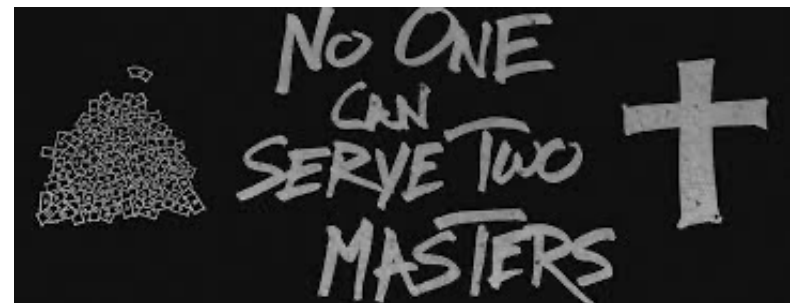
- For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs (1 Timothy 6:9-10)
- Danger of loving money
 - Turning away from God; neglecting your family; personal/spiritual pride; selfishness
- Is it wrong to be well off financially or to seek to improve your situation?
 - The Bible has many warnings about the perils of wealth. However, God sometimes gives people riches (Abraham, David, and Solomon), which can be a blessing.
 - The key is to have the right attitude toward money to recognize that your wealth is God's and see it as something to help accomplish his will in the world.

Planning/Budgeting Finance

- Plan your spending
 - A prudent person foresees danger and takes precautions. The simpleton goes blindly on and suffers the consequences (Proverbs 27:12)
 - Planning your spending is telling your money where you want it to go. To budget we need to keep good records. With a budget we can create some financial margin, we never know when an unexpected demand may come along and having room in the budget helps in those situations.
- Live on less than you make and save
 - The wise have wealth and luxury, but fools spend whatever they get (Proverbs 21:20)

Needs and Wants

- Clarify the difference between needs and wants.
 - One is based on survival vs. One is based on choice.
 - What is the root of our choices?
 - Overspending robs us of our joy through worry, selfishness, and guilt.
 - My God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19)



Tithing & Offering

- What is tithing?
 - Giving a "tenth part" (one-tenth) of one's income as a sacred offering to God.
 - Be sure to set aside **a tenth** of all that your fields produce each year (Deut. 14:22).
 - **A tenth** of the produce of the land, whether grain or fruit, is the Lord's, and is holy (Lev. 27:30, TLB).
 - (Abram): And praise be to God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand. Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything (Genesis 14:20).
 - (Jacob): If God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey I am taking and will give me food to eat and clothes to wear.... I will give you **a tenth** (Genesis 28:20-22).
 - On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money **in keeping with your income...** (1 Corinthians 16:2).
- What is offering?
 - It comes from the 90% that remains in our possession after tithe. It is a personal thanksgiving and repentance of sins.
 - Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the LORD your God has blessed you (Deuteronomy 16:17).

Self-assessment

1. Are you giving at least 10% to God?
2. Are you giving to God first before paying other bills?
3. Are you indifferent to the needs of the poor?
4. Are you going in debt for lusting things (wants) instead of needs?
5. Are you planning and budgeting your financial spending?
6. Do I envy what others have, or am I covetous?
7. Are you willing to sell or give away anything that God would tell you?
8. Are you totally committed and thankful to God, no matter what is happening?
9. Have you committed all your money and material things to God?
10. Are you seeking financial blessing instead of seeking God and His will?