



SHINY OBJECTS | Earn, Save, Give | Week 3
May 26, 2019
John 10:10, 2 Corinthians 9:6-12, Luke 12:13-21

Opening: In this series we pursue the following premise and question: “I am someone genuinely interested in living my life according to the principles and priorities that Jesus called the Kingdom of God. But I am also attracted to SHINY OBJECTS. Surrounded by all that glitters in American society, all that beckons and begs me to make IT the source of my security, status, and significance, I get **distracted** from God and the abundant life that Jesus intends to which I want to be **devoted**.” *Am I alone in this?*

Context: In John 10:10 Jesus declares his purpose on earth as, giving us the opportunity for ABUNDANT LIFE. We consider today “Earn,” “Save,” and “Give.” *How do you define or feel abundance is reflected in each of those three words? Share with each other what words come to mind when you think of abundance?*

An Attitude for Others: Pastor Dan opens by recounting John Wesley’s life. *What distinguished his life? What sticks with you as you think of John Wesley. Consider Warren Buffett, Rick Warren, Bill Gates...or any other remarkable example you know of. What makes them seem remarkable? Google for facts.*

Earn Energetically: Read 2 Corinthians 9:6. *What does “generously” and “sparingly” refer to? Applying this metaphor to your work, how do you rate your energy? Does the concept of sowing generously give you any new insight?*

God’s Seed: Read 2 Corinthians 9:10. Consider the “seed.” *What is the seed God has provided in your life? Pastor Dan shared your seed refers to, “your skills, insights, experiences, and gifts, and even existing financial or physical resources. Your seed is all those things God has given you which, if used wisely and well, could grow.” Talk about how that idea applies to you.*

Increase your Store: Pastor Dan recounts a story about seed corn. He said “It’s for planting. You see if we eat up all the corn, then there’s nothing left to plant so that there’s a harvest next year.” *How does that apply to your life? How does “prudence” apply?*

Practical Advice: American savings rate is currently 3%. Pastor Dan shared, “We need to become more like Wesley or Buffett and say no to the SHINY OBJECTS. We need to be putting more of our income away for rainy days or for our retirement and not expect God or the government to miraculously bail us out.” *How do you respond to that statement? What have you learned in your life story that might help others?*



A Spiritual Discipline?: Read Luke 12:13-21. We apply ourselves energetically and earn, we discipline ourselves to live prudently and save—all to what end? *Is it the security of “full barns?” What produces abundant life? How do you respond to this?*

Enriched to be Generous: Read 2 Corinthians 9:10-11. *How does generosity affect you? Tell a story about helping a stranger or making someone comfortable in an awkward situation. Or perhaps share a story when someone was generous towards you. How as that shaped your heart and life?*

Harvest: “Enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.” In farming, the harvest is the final goal. *What does Paul mean by righteousness? How does this relate to the abundant life that He intends?*

Thanksgiving to God: “Your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.” *Is this adequate reason for generosity? Talk about how you look at generosity and what influences your actions.*

Practice of the Week: 10:10:80 A Pragmatic Calculation

Pastor Dan shared, “putting one foot in front of the other until it’s too late. Don’t let that happen with your finances.” This week we step aside from contemplation and put pen to paper. Do the best job you can from your records to find out what your % is for giving, saving and living. Consider each one individually and ask God to show you if there is distraction there. As it says in James 1 “ask God for wisdom.” Ask for the attitude, the discipline, the belief to turn the distraction into devotion. Ask God to speak to you.

Family Formation: Prayer Wall

What can we pray about? Using last week’s posted prayer requests, talk about how things are going and pray for requests and thanksgiving where appropriate. Present the 10:10:80 idea to your kids (It might be a good time to start an allowance if that is new to your kids). If you can, talk about your practice as a family.

Additional Resources: This might be a great time to consider to be part of **Financial Peace University**. Our next 9-week session starts on June 3. Our Financial Peace University course tackles topics including budgeting, debt, insurance, retirement planning and giving, and offers baby steps to help with each area of finances along the way. For more information and to register go to ChristChurch.us/fpu.

We’d love to hear from you!

If you have thoughts questions, comments, ideas on how to make these study guides more meaningful for you and your group, please let us know.

We also enjoy hearing how God is using these scriptures and study guides in your lives.

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