

Small Group Discussion Guide

Message: *First In Our Worship*

Based on the message by Pastor Darcy Siggelkow, Calvary Temple, February 16, 2025

Opening Discussion:

1. Have you ever witnessed people worship idols? Describe what you saw. How did it make you feel?

Bible Reflection

1. Jesus' Teaching on Worship and Wealth

📖 Luke 12:13-15 (NLT)

- Why do you think Jesus refuses to settle the inheritance dispute?
- What does Jesus mean when He says, "Life is not measured by how much you own"?

2. The Dangers of Money and Idolatry



📖 Luke 12:16-21 (The Parable of the Rich Farmer)

- Why did Jesus call the rich man foolish? How does this story challenge our views on security and success?
- What does it mean to have a "rich relationship with God"?
- Discuss the following thoughts on idolatry:
 - Will Mancini: "An idol is anything we add to Jesus in order to make life work."
 - An idol is any good thing that we allow to become a 'god-thing' in our lives.

Heart Issues Jesus Exposed

💬 Three ways materialism can become idolatrous:

1. **Significance** – misplaced desire for approval: finding worth in wealth instead of in God.
 - Discussion: How can we resist the temptation to define ourselves by our achievements or possessions?
 - 📖 **1 John 3:1 (NLT)** – "See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are!"
2. **Satisfaction** – misplaced desire to be comfortable: seeking happiness in material things.
 - Discussion: Why is materialism "toxic for happiness"? Have you ever bought something expecting it to bring you joy, only to be disappointed?
 - 📖 **Proverbs 30:8-9 (NLT)** – "Give me neither poverty nor riches... so I may not deny you nor steal."
 - 📖 **1 Timothy 6:17 (NLT)** – "God...richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment."

3. **Security** – misplaced desire for control: trusting money more than God.
 - Discussion: Do we sometimes trust our bank accounts more than we trust God? What does true security look like?
 -  **Exodus 16:4 (NLT)** – God provided manna daily as a test of faith.
 -  **Leviticus 25:20-21 (NLT)** – God provided enough in the 6th year to cover the 7th Sabbath year.

Self-Reflection: Evaluating Our Relationship with Money

 **Which of the following questions challenge you the most?**

- How often do you compare your wealth to others?
- Are your goals and dreams driven by money or what money can buy?
- Do you experience financial anxiety? How does your faith influence that?
- What is your attitude towards giving and generosity?

Closing: Read Luke 12:22-31

- Ask God to help you seek Him first in all areas of life.
- Pray for freedom from financial anxiety and a generous heart.