

FINANCIAL FITNESS



 **DAILYHOPE**
WITH RICK WARREN

Financial Fitness

Small Group Study Guide, Edition 1.0

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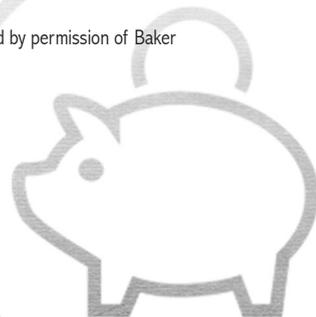


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UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDY GUIDE

Here is a brief explanation of the features of this study guide.

CHECKING IN: You will open each meeting with an opportunity for everyone to check in with each other about how you are doing with the weekly assignments. Accountability is a key to success in this study!

KEY VERSE: Each week you will find a key verse or Scripture passage for your group to read together. If someone in the group has a different translation, ask them to read it aloud so the group can get a bigger picture of the meaning of the passage.

VIDEO LESSON: There is a video lesson for the group to watch together each week. Fill in the blanks in the lesson outlines as you watch the video, and be sure to refer back to these outlines during your discussion time.

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS: Each video segment is complemented by several questions for group discussion. Please don't feel pressured to discuss every single question. There is no reason to rush through the answers. Give everyone ample opportunity to share their thoughts. If you don't get through all of the discussion questions, that's okay.

PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE: This is where the rubber meets the road. We don't want to be just hearers of the Word. We also need to be doers of the Word (James 1:22). These assignments are application exercises that will help you put into practice the truths you have discussed in the lesson.

PRAYER DIRECTION: At the end of each session you will find suggestions for your group prayer time. Praying together is one of the greatest privileges of small group life. Please don't take it for granted.

A Tip for the Host

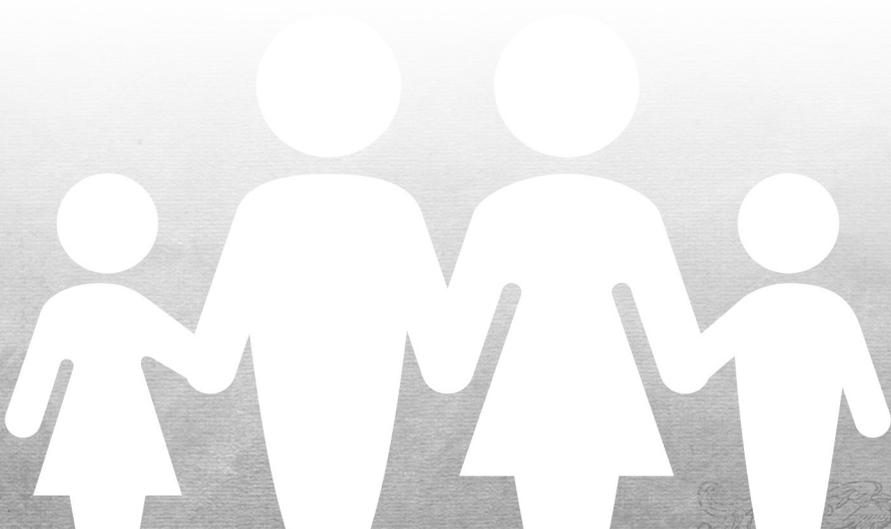
The study guide material is meant to be your servant, not your master. The point is not to race through the sessions; the point is to take time to let God work in your lives. Nor is it necessary to “go around the circle” before you move on to the next question. Give people the freedom to speak, but don’t insist on it. Your group will enjoy deeper, more open sharing and discussion if people don’t feel pressured to speak up.



HOW TO USE THIS VIDEO CURRICULUM

Follow these simple steps for a successful small group meeting:

- Open your group meeting by using the **Checking In** section of your study guide.
- Watch the video lesson together and follow along in the outlines in this study guide. Each video lesson is about fifteen minutes long.
- Complete the rest of the discussion materials for each session. Be sure to review the **Putting It Into Practice** section and commit to fulfilling any action steps before your next session.
- Close your time together by following the **Prayer Direction** suggestions.





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SESSION 1

SEVEN LAWS FOR FINANCIAL FREEDOM

CHECKING IN:

Since this is the first week of this small group study, have the group attendees introduce themselves and share what brought them to the study.

KEY VERSE:

“Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them.”

Matthew 25:14 NIV

SEVEN FOUNDATIONS FOR FINANCIAL FITNESS

**1. The law of _____ :
Everything I have _____ to God.**

“To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away.”

Matthew 25:15 NRSV

**2. The law of _____:
God has _____ me money.**

**You've got to learn how to put your money to work for
you instead of you working for money.**

*"After a long time the master of those servants returned
and settled accounts with them."*

Matthew 25:19 NIV

.....

**3. The law of _____:
One day God will _____ me.**

So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.

Romans 14:12 NIV

...

*"The man who had received the five talents brought the other five.
'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five
more.' His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant!'"*

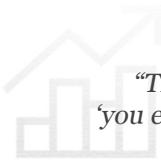
Matthew 25:20-21a NIV

...

*"The man with the two talents also came. 'Master,' he said,
'you entrusted me with two talents; see I have gained two more.'"*

Matthew 25:22 NIV

...



“Then the man who had received the one talent came. ‘Master,’ he said, I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’ His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest’”

Matthew 25:24-27 NIV

•••••

**4. The law of _____:
I must use God’s money _____.**

“His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed?’”

Matthew 25:26 NIV

**God put you on earth to use your time, money, energy,
and intelligence for good and for God.**

•••••

**5. The law of _____:
I must move _____ my fears.**

“I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground.”

Matthew 25:25a NIV

•••

Fearing people is a dangerous trap, but trusting the Lord means safety

Proverbs 29:25 NLT

•••••

**6. The law of _____:
If I don't use it, I _____ it.**

“Take away the money from this servant and give it to the one with ten talents. To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance. But for those who are unfaithful, even what little they have will be taken away.”

Matthew 25:28-29 NLT

If I do use it wisely, God gives me more.

.....

**7. The law of _____:
God will _____ me for
_____ money management.**

Money is the acid test of your faithfulness. God uses it more than any other thing in your life to test your faith.

“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’”

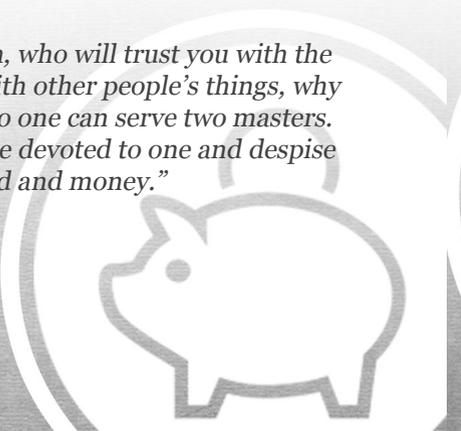
Matthew 25:21 NIV

...

And if you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven? And if you are not faithful with other people’s things, why should you be trusted with things of your own? “No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

Luke 16:11-13 NLT

...



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- 1. Can you make a case for the third servant who refused to invest what his master had given him? Share three plausible reasons for his behavior. What do you think God would say about those excuses?**

- 2. Which of the seven laws for financial freedom do you find the most difficult to apply to your life? Why?**

- 3. Everything we have is a gift from God that he wants us to use for his purposes. In what area of your life—your finances, your talents, your time—do you struggle the most to remember God owns it?**

- 4. Share a time in your life when you believe God took something small you had and multiplied it when you gave it to him.**



PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

Pick one gift in your life that God has given you, and commit to using it for the Lord's purposes. Make your commitment tangible by writing it down and giving the piece of paper to a trusted small group member. Ask that person to keep you accountable for the commitment you've made.

PRAYER DIRECTION

As you pray together as a small group, ask God to show you areas of your life, financial or otherwise, that you haven't used for God's purposes. Agree with God that choosing to hold on to what God has given you is a sin, and commit to using your God-given resources for his purposes in the upcoming weeks, months, and years.

