



This week, we begin a new series at Journey Church: *MAD Money*. Over the next three weeks, we will talk some about giving, but our primary goal is to get an overall picture of how we can all win with our finances. Even if your finances appear to be in good order, we encourage you to sign up for the “ReThink Money” seminar on May 10 . . . and bring some friends!

- **Why do you think people struggle so much with their finances?**
  
- **READ *Hebrews 13:5*. In what areas are you content with what you have and in what areas do you find yourself struggling to be content?**
  
- **READ *Philippians 4:11-13***
  - **According to this passage, what do you think is the secret to being content in any and every situation?**
  
  - **Do you believe it is possible for you to feel the same way as Paul? Why or why not?**
  
  - **What are some practical steps you can begin to take to lead you to this place in your life?**
  
- **It is our responsibility to teach our children and leave them a legacy of contentment and generosity.**
  - **Do you feel you are currently teaching and modeling these things for your children? Why/why not?**
  
  - **What are some steps you can take to teach your children contentment and to handle money God's way?**
  
- **It is so easy to believe that we need more stuff or different stuff than we already have. This can lead us to start believing that God is somehow holding out on us. One of the primary defenses against this is remembering and being thankful for what we already have. Write down ten things that God has given you that you sometimes take for granted.**
  
- **What do you want to get out of this series? How can your Growth Group pray for you over the next three weeks?**



Group Leaders:

Just so you know up front – the Travel Guides for this series may be a little different. Mountain Lake Church in Cumming, Georgia, did a similar series in the fall. Our speaker this week, Casey Graham, is on staff at Mountain Lake. As a result, they have graciously made some of their materials available to us. I have adapted the material for use in our Growth Groups and at Journey Church. Let me know what you like and don't like about the format.

Also, I haven't been getting much feedback from the Groups lately. With such a practical series, I look forward to hearing stories of genuine life change as we press on to experience a win with our finances.

With that, let's dive right in!  
Andrew

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- **Why do you think people struggle so much with their finances?**

This first question is a rather simple topic-starter. It is intentionally generic and will allow your folks to talk in terms of "other people." However, listen carefully, because there's probably at least some level of self-confession involved in what your folks are saying. Be ready to come back to some of the things that are said both in the rest of this discussion, and also in the coming weeks of this series.

- **READ *Hebrews 13:5*. In what areas are you content with what you have and in what areas do you find yourself struggling to be content?**

This question is designed to get your group thinking about the subject of contentment. This weekend Casey talked about it being better to want what you have than to have what you want. Utilize this question to help people to take an honest look at the areas in their life that they struggle with contentment and the area where they are winning. As always, it would probably be best if you share first and then open it up to others.

- **READ *Philippians 4:11-13***

This next group of questions is designed to give people a glimpse of how the Apostle Paul was able to learn contentment. Before becoming a follower of Jesus, Paul had been a very successful and influential person in his community. He was a Pharisee and had everything he needed financially. Then, after becoming a Christ-Follower, Paul found himself in many difficult situations. However, through it all, he tells us that he learned the secret of finding contentment in any situation. In this passage, Paul shares that his source of contentment comes from the strength that he finds in Jesus Christ. In fact, in the chapter before this, Paul tells us that he now considers all things as worthless compared to the greatness of knowing Jesus! (Phil. 3:8) Wow! What a perspective! Therefore, I believe that being content comes down to developing this kind of perspective and understanding what matters most in life and what doesn't really matter at all.

- **According to this passage, what do you think is the secret to being content in any and every situation?**

- **Do you believe it is possible for you to feel the same way as Paul? Why or why not?**

- **What are some practical steps you can begin to take to lead you to this place in your life?**

Here are 2 of the many practical steps that we could all take in order to begin to develop this perspective and contentment in our lives. 1. A great first step would be to ask the Journey Church staff to identify some scriptural helps for you to study on your own. Getting God's perspective on money is a great place to start. We will be compiling some forms of personal study materials and will have them available either online or at the church office. 2. Secondly, start giving away as much as you can. Give to people in need. Give to charities and organizations. Give to God's work through your local church. Give to people going on missions trips. Giving is a great way to develop contentment with what you have. In the New Testament, the early believers shared with everyone that was in need and focused all that they had on furthering God's Kingdom in the world.

- It is our responsibility to teach our children and leave them a legacy of contentment and generosity.

This set of questions is designed to get people thinking about what their financial habits are teaching their children. Make sure that you point out that it is just as important that we MODEL contentment and generosity for our children and just TELL them to do it. Some practical things that you could do to teach them might be to take time to pray with them and to thank God for all of the many ways He has blessed your family and not just focus on the things you want God to give you. Another great idea might be to allow your kids to see you giving. Let them see you help out a family in need. Let them know that you make giving to God through the local church a huge priority. Let them see you mail a check for a friend that is going on a missions trip and explain to them why you make it a point to live a life of generosity.

- **Do you feel you are currently teaching and modeling these things for your children? Why/why not?**

- **What are some steps you can take to teach your children contentment and to handle money God's way?**

- It is so easy to believe that we need more stuff or different stuff than we already have. This can lead us to start believing that God is somehow holding out on us. One of the primary defenses against this is remembering and being thankful for what we already have. **Write down ten things that God has given you that you sometimes take for granted.**

This really is something that we do not do nearly enough. Stop here and take 5 awkward minutes for everyone to stop talking and write down 10 things that God has given them. Then have everyone share a couple of things on their list that they have been taking for granted.

- **What do you want to get out of this series? How can your Growth Group pray for you over the next three weeks?**

For many people in our Growth Groups, this series may be unbelievably life-changing. However, we may all face some incredibly difficult challenges as we make the adjustments needed to ReThink Money and win with our finances. Take some time to pray for each other as a group that we would hear what God would have us learn and also have the courage and determination to step out and make the right changes.