

JOE MILLIONAIRE

WEEK 2 - JOE'S PRETENSE

GETTING STARTED – CONNECTING

You know that we are living in a material world and I am a material girl. – Madonna

What things from the material world most easily attract you? Why do you think you are so drawn to them?

OPENING THE BIBLE – GROWING

The Beatles may claim that money can't buy love, but money *can* buy a lot of things; and money *can't* buy a whole lot more than what love can buy.

- ✚ What are some of the things you can buy with money? When you buy these things, what feelings or emotions do you associate with them?
- ✚ What are some of the things you can't buy with money? What feelings or emotions do associate with these things?

Money is neutral--neither good nor evil--yet **1 Timothy 6:10** states, "*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.*" **Hebrews 13:5** says it this way: "*Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, 'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.'*"

- ✚ What kinds of evil could the love of money lead to?
- ✚ How could the love of money impede someone's ability to tithe or give offerings to God?

While money is neutral, our attitudes and actions towards it are usually *not*. Look up **Isaiah 55:1-2**, **Ecclesiastes 7:11-12** and **1 Corinthians 16:1-2** and discuss the following questions:

- ✚ What are these verses saying about money?
- ✚ How do they mirror or contradict your own attitudes and actions with regards to how you spend it?
- ✚ Do you feel good about how you spend money? What would you like to change? If you would like to change some things but feel like you're stuck, explain.
- ✚ If you tithe, how does it change your beliefs about money and how does it change your financial condition? If you don't tithe, explain what is holding you back (desire, budget, etc.).
- ✚ How do you think tithing relates to peace and intimacy with God? Can you relate an example from your life?

Read **Deuteronomy 26:12-13** and **2 Chronicles 31:2-21**. Name some of the reasons that the people gave and what their tithes and offerings were able to accomplish. Try to correlate that with the needs and purposes of the modern church. Brainstorm all the different ways your tithes could be invested into the kingdom of Christ.

IN CONCLUSION - NEXT STEPS

- ✚ Put together a loose monthly budget of how you would ideally like to spend the money you currently have right now. Scrutinize them against God's spiritual wisdom (give, save, debt, needs, fun/wants.) How do they measure up? What do you need to change?
- ✚ This week, actually track how you spend every dollar and evaluate it based on God's priorities.
- ✚ Create a specific plan to change the spending habits you need to or could break. (What could you go without? Do you need to save more? Be more responsible about getting rid of debt? Give more?)