

1. No one can serve two masters

- a) Matthew 6:24
- b) Mammon: an Aramaic word for riches/wealth
- c) Why would someone try to serve both God and wealth?
- d) Why does Jesus say “you cannot” rather than “you must not serve God and mammon”?

2. The gift of material possessions

- a) Genesis 1:1, 26–31, God’s creation was very good
- b) Genesis 2:1–3, the Sabbath—a gift from God
- c) How does the Sabbath provide an opportunity to keep a healthy perspective about life?
- d) How should we relate to the material possessions we have been given?

3. Counsel from Jesus about material possessions

- a) John 1:1–3, 14, Jesus is the Word of God
- b) Luke 12:15–21, a story
 - i) What warning signs do you see in this story that the rich man is living for his riches rather than for God?
 - ii) Why does God call this rich man a fool?
- c) Matthew 19:16–22, an encounter with a rich man
 - i) How does this rich young ruler differ from the rich man with the small barn?
 - ii) Why does Jesus ask the rich young ruler to give up all his possessions rather than just a portion?

- d) These individuals put money before God, and money became their god. Share a time when a desire for wealth put you at risk spiritually.
- e) What counsel would you give to someone who is being distracted by material possessions?

4. Remembering what God has accomplished for us in Christ Jesus

- a) John 3:16
- b) Romans 5:6–8
- c) Colossians 1:13–14
- d) Romans 10:9, 13
- e) How does an awareness of what Jesus has accomplished for us help us to keep God number one in our lives?

5. Recognizing God as the owner of all

- a) Psalm 24:1
- b) Deuteronomy 10:14
- c) Psalm 50:10
- d) Haggai 2:8
- e) Ezekiel 18:4
- f) 1 Corinthians 6:19–20
- g) God is the owner of all things, including each one of us. How should this revelation impact our view of life and material possessions?

