

Trivial Pursuits

WHAT REALLY MAKES FOR A HAPPY LIFE?



- The pursuits of our lives expose the **void** in our lives.

Spiritual **needs** are not satisfied by **temporary** things.

- When our pursuits in life are the **things** in life, we will never have **enough**.

Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income. Ecclesiastes 5:10 (NIV)

"Take care! Protect yourself against the least bit of greed. Life is not defined by what you have, even when you have a lot." Luke 12:15 (MSG)

- It's not wrong to have things; it's wrong for **things to have us**.

- We tend to measure our **worth** by our wealth.

Life is not defined by what you have, even when you have a lot." Luke 12:15 (MSG)

- Pursuing the **American Dream** is not our goal in life.

And I'll sit back and say to myself, "My friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry!" Luke 12:19 (NLT)

- You can't be right with **God** and wrong about **money**.

"But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God." Luke 12:20-21 (NIV)

good news and bad news.

- The good news is: You are **rich**.

Moreover, when God gives someone wealth and possessions, and the ability to enjoy them...this is a gift of God. Ecclesiastes 5:19

- The bad news is: You are **rich**.

Jesus looked at him and said, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God! Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." Luke 18:24-25

Disadvantages of being rich:

- We already have all we **need**.

- We become **distracted**.

- We have a greater **responsibility**.

When someone has been given much, much will be required in return; and when someone has been entrusted with much, even more will be required. Luke 12:48 (NLT)

When we think we can't afford to be rich toward God:

- Being rich toward God is not a **financial** issue but a **heart** issue.

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:21 (ESV)

You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. 2 Corinthians 9:11 NIV

- Be willing to let something **go** so you can **give** something.

"But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God." Luke 12:20-21 (NIV)

Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be. Matthew 6:19-21 (NLT)

How to be rich towards God:

- I will make it a **priority** to **give** to God.

Honor God with everything you own; give him the first and the best. Proverbs 3:9

The purpose of tithing is to teach you to always put God **first** in your lives. Deuteronomy 14:23 (TLB)

- I will look for ways to **bless others**.

Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life. 1 Timothy 6:17-19



TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- Do you consider yourself to be rich? If not, how much money would you need to have to be rich?
- In your opinion, why do we pursue money and stuff?
- Talk about the point: "It's not wrong to have things, it's wrong for things to have us," What does that mean to you? What does the point mean: "You can't be right with God and wrong about money?"
- Do you think you are rich in comparison to the people around the world? Why is being rich good news? Why is being rich also bad news?
- Why is being rich toward God not a financial issue but a heart issue?
- Are you willing to let something go so you can give something to God?
- How do we make giving to God a priority in our life? Both in our heart and in our actions?
- Why is giving to others also a part of being rich towards God?
- How does being rich toward God help us to not pursue money and things?
- How does being rich toward God fill the void in our life that pursuing money seems to fill?

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Today's Talk..



"MONEY AND STUFF"