**Series OVERVIEW**

God wants to free us from the financial anxiety that plagues so many of us. There is a path to financial freedom where not only can we be free from worry and stress, but where we will experience the joy of generosity. During this series we’ll encourage and challenge one another to trust God and start moving in that direction.

NOTE: We will not be receiving Docent briefs for this series. Instead we will rely on previous messages and other resources.

**Week 1  | March 3 | The Attitude of Trust**

**Scripture: Proverbs 14:12, Daniel 4:29-37, Various Scriptures**

**Message Big Idea**God will transform our attitude about money when we choose to trust his wisdom about finances and generosity.

*There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death. -Proverbs 14:12*

*Twelve months later, as the king was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, he said, “Is not this the great Babylon I have built as the royal residence, by my mighty power and for the glory of my majesty?”* *Even as the words were on his lips, a voice came from heaven, “This is what is decreed for you, King Nebuchadnezzar: Your royal authority has been taken from you. You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like the ox. Seven times will pass by for you until you acknowledge that the Most High is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and gives them to anyone he wishes.”* *Immediately what had been said about Nebuchadnezzar was fulfilled. He was driven away from people and ate grass like the ox. His body was drenched with the dew of heaven until his hair grew like the feathers of an eagle and his nails like the claws of a bird.* *At the end of that time, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, and my sanity was restored. Then I praised the Most High; I honored and glorified him who lives forever.* *His dominion is an eternal dominion;* *his kingdom endures from generation to generation.* *All the peoples of the earth* *are regarded as nothing.* *He does as he pleases* *with the powers of heaven* *and the peoples of the earth.* *No one can hold back his hand* *or say to him: “What have you done?”*

*At the same time that my sanity was restored, my honor and splendor were returned to me for the glory of my kingdom. My advisers and nobles sought me out, and I was restored to my throne and became even greater than before. Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and exalt and glorify the King of heaven, because everything he does is right and all his ways are just. And those who walk in pride he is able to humble. -Daniel 4:29-37*

**Message Description:**

There are attitudes that the majority of people in America have about money and generosity – attitudes that many of us in this room have about money and generosity – and at first glance, these attitudes “appear” to be right. Yet the writer of Proverbs warns us: *“There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death.” -Proverbs 14:12*

Sadly, many of our attitudes about money can lead to the death and destruction of our finances and our generosity.

The road to financial freedom begins with a transformation of our attitude. This transformation comes about when we trust what God says about money and generosity.

Drawing from this previous [COMMUNITY message](https://drive.google.com/open?id=15MlemJl6pBc0vuCr8ckY8ShavMWQWumo), we will confront attitudes we have about money that “appear to be right,” but are lies. We’ll replace those lies with God’s truth.

**Additional Research:**

* Relevant chapters from Barry L. Cameron’s [The ABC’s of Financial Freedom](https://drive.google.com/open?id=15MlemJl6pBc0vuCr8ckY8ShavMWQWumo) (book on order).

**Week 2  | March 10 | The Practices of Trust**

**Scripture: Luke 14:28-30, 2 Corinthians 9:7-11**

**Message Big Idea**

 While we are to trust God to provide for our needs, we honor God by having a plan for the money he entrusts to us.

*“Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, saying, ‘This person began to build and wasn’t able to finish.’” -Luke 14:28-30*

*Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written:* *“They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor;* *their righteousness endures forever.”*\ *Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched 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 9:7-11*

**Message Description**

Most Americans don’t have a financial plan. And as a result… *(We’ll need to update these stats)*

* 70% of Americans live paycheck to paycheck.
* 80% of college students have $4000+ in credit card debt before they have their first job. The average American has $10,000+ in credit card debt.
* 97% of people who are retired can’t write a $600 check.

No wonder we are filled with anxiety!

While we are to trust God to provide for our needs, we honor God by having a plan for the money he entrusts to us. A Biblical plan has 4 aspects to it:

1. Giving
2. Saving
3. Debt Reduction
4. Lifestyle

The first three are supposed to determine the fourth. The problem is, for many of us, we determined our lifestyle first and then find it impossible to follow God’s direction for the first three.

Drawing from this [Steve Stroope message](https://vimeo.com/77358377), we will unpack each of these four areas and what it looks like to make a financial plan.

The idea of living within God’s current provision for my life from a previous COMMUNITY Message (Week 2 of the Mine series), could help explain what it looks like to live according to the above principles.

We’ll also want to give practical suggestions on how to tackle debt in this message. Dave Ramsey talks about the “debt snowball method” which could be a helpful illustration to use: <https://www.daveramsey.com/blog/get-out-of-debt-with-the-debt-snowball-plan> It would be great to include a testimony in this week of someone who has been freed from debt.

We’ll encourage people to sign up for upcoming workshops, small groups (FPU), etc. that can help them on the road to financial freedom.

**Additional Research**:

* What does the Bible teach about debt? <https://www.focusonthefamily.com/family-q-and-a/life-challenges/biblical-perspective-on-debt>  <https://www.biblemoneymatters.com/is-it-a-wrong-for-a-christian-to-use-debt-of-any-kind-is-being-in-debt-sin/>

**Week 3  | March 17 | The Journey of Trust**

**Scripture: 1 Timothy 6:17-19, 2 Corinthians 9:6-7**

**Message Big Idea**

God intends for us to live in an ever-deepening relationship with him where we trust him to provide what we need, and we give back to him to further his mission.

*17 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. 18 Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. 19 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*

*6 Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 7 Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. -2 Corinthians 9:6-8*

**Message Description**

God intends for us to live in a relationship with him where he provides what we need and we give back to him to further his mission.

Growing in generosity is really about growing in a relationship with God. As we put our trust in him, we are freed from our financial anxiety. We can take our next step in our generosity journey and experience the joy helping further his mission.

In this message we’ll challenge people to take their next step on their generosity journey.

From an Initial Giver.

To a Consistent Giver.

To an Intentional Giver.

To a Surrendered Giver.

To a Lifetime Giver.

No matter where you are on this generosity journey, there is always a next step. This week we’ll challenge every person to take their next step.

It might be great to send people home with a resource that challenges them to have a generosity conversation in their families.

We’ll also want to encourage people to sign up for upcoming workshops, small groups (FPU), etc. that can help them on the road to financial freedom.

**Additional Research:**

* This [Steve Stroope Message](https://vimeo.com/15732886) on the Generosity Ladder.