

The Buck Starts Here**June 24, 2012**

Talking through the message during the week helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions and scriptures are designed to help you take the next step.

- What is the most significant thing God has shown you during this series? How is this making a difference in your life?
- What is your life's dream? How seriously are you planning toward its fulfillment?

With your Bible or YouVersion.com, read Proverbs 6:6-11; 10:5; 13:4, 7, 11, 18, 22, 25; 21:20 and 24:3-4

- What habits can we learn from observing the ant? How does this apply to having an emergency fund or a long term savings plan?
- As it relates to money, what are the characteristics of a lazy (sluggard, wicked) person? Of the wise or righteousness? What characteristics does God still need to develop in you?

Read Genesis 41:29-39, 46-49

- How did Joseph know that a famine was coming? What wisdom did he give Pharaoh about how to handle the coming disaster? How did saving for this emergency also lead to increased wealth? Saved lives?
- What would have happened if Pharaoh had not

listened to Joseph or followed his advise?

- If God gave you some insider information about the future, like he did Joseph, would you take action and prepare for it? What is God saying to you through this series about preparing for the future?

Think it Over

- How do tithing, budgeting, having an emergency fund and getting rid of debt each free us to invest for the future? What wants or desires could you sacrifice for now in order to invest more in your future?
- How can we avoid these two extremes: doing nothing to plan for the future and basing our security on how much wealth we have accumulated? How can you keep your motivation, while building wealth, free from fear and from the love of money?
- What is the next step for you in "prioritizing" your dollars?

My Next Step Today Is To . . .

- Give my life to Jesus.
- Take the 3 month Tithe Challenge.
- I will prioritize my dollars so that I honor God, reduce debt and plan for the future.
- Meditate on and/or memorize Proverbs 21:20

Talk It Over with God:

These prayer tips can guide your time alone with God each day. Praying with a friend or a small group might help you stick to it.

- Let God speak to you about your use of the resources He has intrusted to you.
- Ask God to help you as you differentiate between your needs, wants and desires.
- If you aren't tithing ask God to help you take this step of obedience. If you are tithing ask God to help you find the joy that comes through generosity.