

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

Read Proverbs 15:16-17; 16:8; 17:1 and 28:6

While Solomon the writer of these proverbs acknowledges that material wealth has benefits, he is quick to point out that it must be kept in proper perspective. Certain things have a higher priority. Solomon communicates this by using a comparative format couched in “better is . . . than ...” Summarize the Proverbs you’ve read in the appropriate columns.

Proverb	better is	than
15:16		
15:17		
16:18		
17:1		
28:6		

What conclusions do you draw from these contrasts?

Read Luke 12:13-21

In the Gospels we find that Jesus never condemns possessions, but at the same time He does have a lot to say about how we use them. In this particular passage Jesus is asked by an angry man to perform one of the functions that rabbis often performed, arbitration in a dispute over a will.

- How did Jesus respond to the request from the angry man?
- Against what did He warn the crowd? Why?
- In the parable, how did the rich man view his possessions and good fortune?
- What became of the man’s abundance?
- Rather than being greedy Jesus advises His listeners to do what?
- What is more important than food or clothes? Which is more important to you?
- What are some areas in your life where you struggle with greed?

Read Matthew 6:19-23, 33-34

- If someone observed your life what would they say you treasure? Would it reflect where you desire your heart to be? What about where God desires your heart to be?
- What steps do you need to take to make sure that you are seeking God Kingdom first?

My Next Step Today Is To . . .

- Turn all of my life over the care and will of God by receiving Jesus as my Savior and Lord.
- Take all of my worry to Jesus, trusting him with my whole life.
- Ask God to give help me to live a joyful, generous life.
- Meditate on and/or memorize Matthew 6:21

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.

- Talk to God specifically about a situation you are facing that tends to lead to anger. Don’t rush, but allow the Holy Spirit to help you discover the root of your anger.
- Ask God to reveal to you any subtle manifestations of anger in your life.
- If you are increasingly addicted to anger, commit this area of your life to God and then get help.
- Pray that you will increasingly be peacemaker as you learn the virtue of patience.