

# THE NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS

## The Nightmare of Loving Money

*Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs. But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called... 1 Timothy 6:6-12 ESV*

How do I know if I love money?

1. You take a job for the money, and not for the work

**DISCUSSION:** What was your reason for taking the job you have now? What was your motivating factor? How do you feel about the reason for your decision?

2. You feel as though you never have enough

**DISCUSSION:** What parts of your life resonate with the idea of feeling as though you don't have enough?

3. You desire to show off your money through things

*Then he said, "Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own." Luke 12:15 NLT*

**DISCUSSION:** In what part of your life do you look to other to receive praise because of your status or possessions (your home, car, clothes, etc.)? Back up your position with examples.

4. You resent giving it away

**DISCUSSION:** What type of attitude do you reflect when people ask you for money, for example, the charities outside the grocery store? What about when the church asks for money, how does that make you feel and how do you respond?

5. You would sin to get it

**DISCUSSION:** In what part of your life do you feel trapped because of your decision over how to handle your finances?

**PRAYER PROJECT:** Matt said that your attitude toward your money should reflect the following three characteristics:

1. All my money is God's money.
2. My spending should reflect God's passions and desires.
3. I should never spend more than I should make.

Take 5-7 minutes to be alone with God and ask Him to show you which of the above three characteristics you are missing from your attitude towards money. Talk to Him about how the above three characteristics make you feel. Ask Him to show you what adjustments/changes you need to make in order to better honor Him with your finances.

Break into groups of 3-4. One person at a time, discuss your experience from the prayer project. When that person is done sharing, take time to pray over that individual. Then move onto the next person until everyone has had a chance to share.