



Session 5: Seek First

- OPENING -

Consider using one of the following questions as an opening activity for your group before moving into a closer look at the passage.

- One of the hallmarks of American life is busyness and hurry. Events and opportunities compete on our calendars to capture our time and attention. With so many different options available to us, how do you prioritize the best things above the good things?
- Worry and anxiety pull on our hearts and minds, drawing us to focus on the unknowns in our life and the things that lie beyond our control.
 - What are you tempted to worry over, or have anxiety about?
 - Share about a time in your life when you were able to trust God despite the unknowns or uncertainty.

- DISCUSSION -

Treasures in Heaven

1. Read Matthew 6:19-24. Notice that the issue of storing up treasure in heaven is ultimately about where our heart is today. The problem with a life not seeking treasure in heaven is that it is necessarily seeking treasure somewhere else.
 - What treasure are you tempted to seek above or in place of God?
 - Why do you think Jesus points specifically to money in this passage? What is it about money that can make it so dangerous to us?
 - How can we recognize when money (or some other treasure) moves from being a resource that we are wisely stewarding, to a treasure that we are wrongly serving?
2. If the thing to be avoided here is wrongly placed treasure which indicates a heart set on the wrong loves, then the positive command to obey here is a heart set on God and his things that stores up treasure in heaven.
 - How can we prioritize or cultivate our love for God and our delight in serving Him above all else?
 - What practically does it mean, or what does it look like, to be laying up treasure in heaven?

Seek First

3. Read Matthew 6:25-34. For most people in the world offering trite sentiments about not prioritizing money could sound like being indifferent to their daily needs for food, shelter and clothing (let alone their education, work, medical care, etc.).
 - How does what Jesus say here, help address the materially poor, and those who really may struggle to come up with the basic necessities of life?
 - How can those who are materially wealthy still practice this simple daily trust in God to provide?
 - How can you both recognize the validity of those issues (safety, health, finances, job) but move from anxiety to trust?
4. One of the comforting things Jesus points to in this passage is God's care for creation.
 - How does God's care for creation offer us comfort when we face uncertainty or concern over our well being?
 - How can God's care for creation help address the worry we may have not for ourselves but for others (worry over aging parents, or over a sibling, a friend or our children)?
5. Jesus points to the idea that worry as a response to uncertainty makes no sense because God provides (vs. 26, 30), and our worry cannot add anything to us or to our lives (vs. 27)
 - How can you remind yourself of the ineffectiveness of worry the next time you are drawn to be anxious over something?
 - Why do you think we are drawn to worry rather than trust as people?
6. The ultimate thrust of this passage is to prioritize above all else God's kingdom and his righteousness.
 - What does it mean to seek first God's kingdom and God's righteousness?
 - How can we seek God's kingdom and righteousness in our homes, work, school, neighborhoods and church?

- CLOSING -

- Spend time in prayer giving your anxieties to God (1 Peter 5:7).
- Are there priorities in your life, or your family's life, that need to be rearranged? What steps can you take this week to make the best things the main thing?
- What can you do this week to seek and pray for God's kingdom and righteousness in your life?