

## SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Trending: Money / Week 1

### BEFORE GROUP

#### BOTTOM LINE

Money matters, but your attitude around it matters more.

#### SCRIPTURE

*For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows (1 Timothy 6:10 NLT).*

*“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:19-21 NIV).*

#### GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students see how money may be impacting their thoughts and actions, and to encourage them to shift their attitude about what money can do for them.

#### THINK ABOUT THIS

Remember that whether they realize it or not, money is a sensitive topic for your few. Students are coming into this conversation from all kinds of backgrounds and with all kinds of experiences. Be careful not to shame, embarrass, or dismiss anybody’s feelings, circumstances, or needs expressed when it comes to money. Be aware of the students in your group. You know their circumstances better than anyone. Because of that, choose your words and examples wisely so as not to unintentionally call them out or paint their family’s money situation in a negative light. It’s also important to recognize that as your students grow and mature through middle school, they’re becoming more aware of money and how it works both for and against them. No matter what examples they give or what tension points they feel when it comes to money at various ages, the struggle—especially that of not having enough—comes from the same place.

*This guide is a suggestion, not a formula. Adjust the questions and activities as needed, and don’t feel like you need to do, or ask, everything you see here.*

### DURING GROUP

#### DO THIS (EXPERIENCE 1)

Write different dollar amounts on the wrappers of chocolate candy coins with a permanent marker. Place the coins in a bowl and ask each of your students to pick one at random. They’ll then have to say what they’d buy with that amount of money if they actually had it.

#### DISCUSS THIS

1. When you hear the word “money,” what comes to mind? (*Note: Song lyrics, social media accounts, feelings, possessions, and more are all okay here!*)
2. On a scale of 1 to 10, how comfortable are you talking about money?
3. What’s one way money might affect a middle schooler?
4. Do you think how we feel about money matters? Why or why not?
5. What’s one way we might know if we need to change our attitude toward money?

#### DO THIS (EXPERIENCE 2)

Using fake dollar bills, ask students to write on one side how they feel about money. On the back, have them write down what changes they need to make in their attitude toward money.

6. What’s one way changing your attitude toward money could make your life better?
7. What’s one thing our group could invest in together that will last forever?