

SESSION 5: **MONEY, MONEY, MONEY**

► **GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE**

We created this guide to help you discuss Jim's content in a group setting. Discussion is a great way to personalize his material for your parenting. To help you get the most out of this guide, here are a few tips to keep in mind.

FOR THE FACILITATOR/LEADER:

BE PREPARED. As the discussion facilitator, you should spend a few moments preparing for your group's time together. Use this time to read the chapter(s) in the book, watch the video, think through the principles, and read the discussion questions. Consider using the following schedule (for a 60-minute session). Take more time if you have some to spare.

- Hang out and reconnect—or eat a meal together!
15-20 minutes
- Watch the video.
5-10 minutes
- Discuss as a group.
15-30 minutes

BE CHOOSY. We've provided a lot of questions—probably too many for your group to discuss in one meeting. The questions ought to be a launchpad for conversation, so pick the questions that best fit your group. Don't feel any pressure to "get through" all of them; the goal for your time together is not to answer every question. If you come up with your own questions, that's great too!

FOR EVERYONE IN THE GROUP:

BE RISKY. The best discussions are open and honest, and sometimes this means taking a risk by sharing something personal. Even though this isn't easy, it's a good thing! Authenticity is always the best teacher.

BE SAFE. If a group isn't safe, no one will take a risk and share something personal. Safe groups are accepting of others even when there is disagreement. Safe groups also don't try to fix one another. Most of the time, a person is not looking for a solution; they just need their feelings validated.

Finally, confidentiality is essential. What's shared in the group stays in the group!

BE CONSISTENT. Make a commitment to meet every week. Life is busy for everyone, but making a weekly meeting a priority will have the greatest impact.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

PRINCIPLE SEVEN: FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE AND RESPONSIBILITY IS THE GOAL.

- Are you surprised to learn that 75% of parents help their adult children financially? Are you among that percentage? How do you feel about this area of your relationship with your children?
- In what ways does money make your relationship with your child(ren) complicated?
- When parents bail their kids out of a financial crisis, it usually prolongs their dependence on them. Why do you suppose a parent might do this intentionally?
- Do your kids know the difference between needs and wants? How has your lifestyle modeled this for them?
- If you haven't modeled healthy stewardship, talk to your kids about it and ask forgiveness. Then construct a plan together that will help you both move in the direction of generosity and better budgeting. What would you address first?
- When your adult child is responsible with their time, talents, relationships, career—and with their money—are you more inclined to help them financially? Why or why not?
- What kind of job have you done at teaching your adult child wise financial management? Is there something you could do now to improve upon it?
- Jim tells us there are no such things as “independent financial decisions.” What do you think he meant by that statement?

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FROM THE BOOK

Were you surprised that money problems ranked as the most common concern among parents of adult children? Why or why not?

How would you describe your approach to teaching your children about money when they were younger? What, if anything, do you wish you had done differently? How might you mentor your adult children in healthy financial stewardship now?

More than 75 percent of parents help their adult children with finances at one time or another. How have you tended to make decisions about when to help and when not to help with finances? When might financial assistance promote dependence rather than independence?

Discussing estate plans as well as end-of-life desires can be awkward, but it is always good to do. How do you feel about having those conversations with your kids? If you haven't yet talked with them, what *specifically* is holding you back? In what ways might you help your child understand that “the best things in life are not things?”

SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

This section is for those who would like to think about the content from a Christian point of view.

"You cannot serve both God and money" (Matthew 6:24 NLT).

- What can you do to teach this concept to your adult child?

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:24).

- Why is this theme so critical to a "right mindset" about money? How would you say you are doing in this area? How about your adult child?