



Week 3: January 27-February 2

Introduce Guests/Share Life: *How has this week been going? Good? Bad? Ugly? Things to celebrate?*

Open in Prayer: *Include any prayer needs that came up while you were sharing life together.*

Recall the Guidelines: *Ask: "What is the purpose of the guidelines?" Answer: To be relational!*

Share the Vision: *This small group is a discipleship group. Our primary goal is to equip you to be a disciple who makes disciples of Jesus. Everything we do in this group is reproducible so you can do it with others.*

Ask someone to tell last week's story (Proverbs 6:1-11 – Illustrations of the ant, etc.).

Hook Question: What do you, or others, consider you to be good at?

Ask someone from your team to read or tell the following background for the story:

Today's story is from the life of Jesus. Jesus was nearing the end of his earthly ministry. He was sitting on a mountain ridge called Olivet, telling his disciples about how he would leave and return. His disciples were curiously asking him questions. They were wondering about the end of time, and when Jesus would return. After telling his disciples that no one knows when he will return and to be ready, he tells tonight's story.

A note about currency: in Jesus' time, there were different forms of currency. Today's story denotes one of them: a talent. Simply, a talent would equate about 20 years' worth of labor. Quick maths tell us that $\$25k \times 20 = \$500k$. Simply put, this is intended to represent a large sum of money.

With an understanding of the background, this is where our story begins...

Tell the story from Matthew 25:14-30: *Use different storytellers. Teach your group to share God's Word.*

Rebuild the story: *Group members retell the story based on what they remember.*

Read the story from Matthew 25:14-30: *Ask the group to read these verses.*

Discussion Questions: learn to talk about God's Word with others...

Head
Questions:
Quicker
tempo.

- What do you find interesting about this story?
- What makes someone a good manager?
- What does this story teach us about people?
- What does this story teach us about God?

Heart & Hand
Questions:
Slow down &
wait!

- Jesus says the master entrusts according to ability. What are some things God has entrusted to you?
- What do you think God is trying to show you right now? How do you need to change?
- Who could retell the story for us right here one last time?

Invite your group to join us for Financial Peace University. They should contact Brandon Werner to register for this 9-week course. FPU begins on January 30th at 6pm. Details online at www.westernhillchurch.com/rightnow.

Thank your storyteller for sharing the Word. Ask for a volunteer storyteller for next week. Close in prayer.



Week 3: Learning to be a Good Steward

A Leader is a Good Steward

Last week we considered being a good steward of our money. This week, I'd like to have us look at our lives holistically. If we want to be good leaders of others, we must first be good stewards of the things God has entrusted to us.

Last Sunday, Jerry Wells instructed us that God wants us to be good stewards of our entire being, "mind soul and spirit." I'm pretty smart, but take a moment yourself to consider what might fit in these categories...

A few ideas I came up with are:

- Body
 - Food, sex, exercise, sleep
- Money
 - Giving, saving
- Time
 - Work, rest, entertainment
- Others
 - Spouse, kids, disciples

This is a process, and Jesus wants to continue to purify us. Surrender to the mindset of a steward of God's gifts and mission.

-Nathan

PS Financial Peace University begins this upcoming Wednesday. I bet Brandon wouldn't cry too much if you showed up to learn how to steward God's money. The course starts on January 30th at 6pm on our campus. More online at www.westernhillchurch.com/rightnow.