



# GROW. PRAY. SERVE.



**Series: GROW AGAIN IN 2010!**

**Message: "Face Reality"**

**PRAYER:** God, fill us now with your power in the name of Jesus, Amen.

**ICEBREAKER:** If someone gave you a million dollars, tax-free, what would you do with it?

## **GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. In Luke 16:1-9, the rich man praises the manager for acting shrewdly, not dishonestly. Although we often think of money as a means of exchange to purchase goods and services, the manager understood that money has many other uses. In your opinion, what kind of spiritual power does money have?
2. "Affluenza" is defined as a painful, contagious, socially transmitted condition of overload, debt, anxiety, and waste resulting from the dogged pursuit of more. All too often, the effects of affluenza are mistaken for a simple headache or backache. In reality, people's physical, mental, and spiritual health are at risk. Does anyone you know embody any of the traits of affluenza?
3. Here are some affluenza self-diagnosis questions. Give your small group members time to read through them and circle any that apply to them:
  - Do you get bored unless you have something to consume (goods, food, media)?
  - Do you try to impress your friends with what you own, or where you vacation?
  - Do you ever use shopping as "therapy"?
  - Do you sometimes go to the mall just to look around, with nothing specific to buy?
  - Have you ever gone on a vacation primarily to shop?
  - In general, do you think about things more than you think about people?
  - Do you personally fill more than one large trash bag in a single week?
  - Have you ever lied to a family member about the amount you spent for a product?
  - Do you frequently argue with family members about money?
  - Are any of your credit cards "maxed out"?
  - Has your credit card ever been rejected because you were over the limit?
  - Do you usually make just the minimum payment on credit card bills?

**CHALLENGE:** Can you relate to any of these? If you circled six or more, you may need to reevaluate your spending in order to stay healthy. You might want to sign up for our financial management classes.

**SERVE:** Jesus says, "...use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings." Here is Jesus's purpose for money: we are to use worldly wealth to show God's love to others. How can we do that?

**CHAMPION TIP:** Pray for your group members this week as they move forward into this new year.