



GROW. PRAY. SERVE.

Message: Making Worry Work for You

PRAYER: God, even amid our worries, we recognize that you are at work. Thank you for your faithfulness. Empower us now to take everything you give us and make it work for us that we might give you glory all the days of our lives. In the mighty, miraculous and magnificent name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

ICEBREAKER: If you could go back in a time machine with thousands of dollars worth of gold coins and knowledge that you have gained about the events leading up to the present year, how would you invest the money and then come back to get a return on your investment?

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Read Matthew 25:14-29. Who do the master and servants represent? As you reflect upon this passage, what has God entrusted to you and I? Why do you think the phrase “each according to his ability” is added in verse 15? (The Greek word “dunamin” is used which means “strength or inner resources given by God.”).
2. If you could ask God for any one or two gifts, what would they be? When you are making financial decisions, what are the values that influence the choices you make?
3. What examples can you think of concerning putting money, time, energy, gifts or talents to work for the advancement of the Kingdom of God? Share an instance of how you felt when you used a gift or talent that God had given. Why do you think the master became angry with the servant who hid his talent?
4. How does the reward compare with what was entrusted to each person (verses 21 & 22). It is possible that the master was testing his servants as to their diligence and faithfulness during the time he was away. If that is so, what can we learn from it? What do the words of the servant reveal about him?

CHALLENGE: Everybody worries. The challenge of this study is to learn to use our worry as a stimulus, rather than permit our worry to paralyze us. Take a moment to think about your current worries—now write down one action you should take to resolve your worries.

CHAMPION TIP: Your continuing ministry as a group champion is to “shepherd” and nurture your group members. Take the closing moments of your gathering to pray for each group member by name and to ask God to transform their worries and give them the power to make them work.