



BALANCED
Session 1 – Opening the Books
Creekside’s LifeGroup Study
March 10th, 2019

LIFEGROUP SERVING OPPORTUNITY! The Big Serve is a church-wide serving event coming up June 1-8, 2019. Our dream is to mobilize hundreds of Creeksiders to go into our community and serve sometime during that week. We would love to see your LifeGroup involved! As a group, you can sign up for one of the projects we arrange, or you can find your own project. Here are two things you can do to begin this adventure. 1. Mark your calendar! The Big Serve launches June 1st. As a group, choose a day you would like to serve. Mark your calendar now and hold that date! 2. Begin to look for projects. Are one of your group members aware of an organization where you could serve? Is there a neighbour, a senior, or someone you are aware of whom you could serve? As you identify projects, we would love to know! Please contact Rob Gast rob.gast@creeksidechurch.ca with your plan. Together, we can make a difference!

STUDY INTRODUCTION

What does it mean to be balanced in the realm of our personal finances? And why talk about our personal finances in church? Because our attitudes and practices with our finances are a reflection of our relationship with God. So instead of guessing – guessing about what God says about money and guessing where our money actually goes – let’s open up the books and take the necessary steps to become balanced.

MEMORY VERSE

“Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.” 1 Timothy 6:18 NIV

VIDEO

Watch online: Balanced: Opening the Books. <https://www.anthology.study/balanced>

STUDY

READ: Authors Brad Hewitt and James Moline write this in their book, "Your New Money Mindset" - "Our money relationship is our everyday attitudes and actions toward money – how we think and feel about money, and how we use it or misuse it. Like any relationship, it can be good or bad, healthy or unhealthy on the upswing or on life support."

- If you had to describe your relationship with money with one word, what word would you choose?
- Think about your experience with money in the family you grew up in. How has your family experience shaped your relationship with money?
- What other factors besides your family of origin have shaped your attitude and actions with money?
- Do you see a strong correlation between your relationship with money and your relationship with God? Why or why not?

READ: Matthew 6:19-21

- What are 2 or 3 principles Jesus teaches us in these verses about having God's perspective on our finances?
- In the video, Andy Stanley said, "Wherever your treasure is, your heart follows." What did he mean by this?
- If you could ask God a question about money, what would you want to ask Him?

READ: "I want you to surrender all your stuff to me." Paraphrase of Jesus

- How might a Christ follower's lifestyle look different than someone who is not a follower when it comes to how we relate to our stuff?
- What might it look like practically to surrender your stuff? See if your group can come up with two or three concrete examples.

READ Luke 16:13 TNIV

"No servant can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money."

- What key words do you see in this verse that highlights what our relationship should be with God?

- In the video, Andy points out that Jesus chose “Money” as the primary competitor with God for whom we will serve. Why do you think Jesus chose “Money” rather than another competitor like “Satan” or “Self”?

TENSION: The conflict that you face and struggle with every day is who is going to be your ruler. Are you going to serve Stuff or God? You can’t have it both ways.

On the continuum below, make a mark where you see yourself right now in terms of serving God or Money.

GOD _____ MONEY

What factors in your life tend to move you toward serving Money? (examples might include worry, self-sufficiency, cultural influence)

What are some actions you can take to move toward being more focused on serving God?

KNOWIN’ WHERE THE MONEY’S GOIN’

In the video, Andy said, “I need to be knowin’ where the money’s goin’.” In other words, it is important to have an accurate picture of where my money is being spent. Andy’s challenge to us is to take seven days to track our personal spending. Below are two tools for you to check out this week. Both of these tools offer free resources you can use to track your spending for seven days. Are you ready to take the challenge? Give it a try and see what God will do in your life and heart this week as you go about knowin’ where the money’s goin’!

Tools to Consider

www.mymoneycoach.ca Free monthly expense tracker. Excel spreadsheet online or print a hard copy and hand write in expenses.

www.tillerhq.com Money management tools using Google sheets. Free 30 day trial and \$5/month.

