



**BALANCED Part 4**  
**Creating a New Line Item**  
**Creekside's LifeGroup Study**  
**March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019**

**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.

**ICE BREAKER:**

Are you a thrift store shopper? Do you love garage sales or finding a deal on Kijiji? What used item have you found for a bargain? Share your treasure finding story with your group!

**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"Life is not measured by how much you own."* Luke 12:15 NLT

**VIDEO:** Watch part 3 <https://www.anthology.study/balanced>

**STUDY:**

We all have extra whether we realize it or not. Extra clothes. Extra food. Extra money. Extra stuff. The question is not whether we have enough extra. The thing we should be asking ourselves is what we are doing with our extra.

READ: Luke 12:33-34

*“Sell your possessions and give to those in need. This will store up treasure for you in heaven! And the purses of heaven never get old or develop holes. Your treasure will be safe; no thief can steal it and no moth can destroy it. Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart also will be.”* NLT

- *“Sell your possessions and give to those in need.”* When Jesus said these words, He didn't mean that we should liquidate all of our assets. Elsewhere in the Bible it is assumed that believers will own personal property. So what did Jesus mean by these words? What might it look like to live out these words today?

READ:

In the video, Andy Stanley said, “Logically we know that life is about more than our stuff, but PRACTICALLY many of us live as if life is all about the abundance of what we have.”

- How might we know if we are practically living as if life is about the abundance of what we have? What signs might point to this in your own life?
- Having savings and investments is wise, but how do we know when we have laid away enough for ourselves? How can we balance saving for the future with giving in the present?

READ: Acts 2:44-45

*“And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need.”* NLT

- The early church was awesome at meeting needs. They saw needs within their community and sold what they had so they could give. Today Creekside shares with those in need through our ministry partnerships in Quito, Ecuador and Jinja, Uganda. We also meet the needs of people in our local community through the Ray of Hope Community Centre and Welcome Home. How might you set a benchmark to help meet the needs of others with what you have? Is it a percentage or pre-planned amount, or is it about responding as you hear about needs?

READ: Galatians 6:10

*“Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone – especially to those in the family of faith.” NLT*

- As followers of Jesus, we have an obligation to help those in need. But, with all the needs that present themselves today, how do you choose what to give to? Have you experienced God’s leading in terms of where to give? Share this with the group.

### **GROUP EXERCISE:**

What do you have in your garage or your basement that is extra? Sell that possession and use the money to give to a cause that God puts on your heart. Causes could include giving to Creekside Church or to one of our ministry partnerships, or giving to another need you become aware of. As you do this, pay attention to what God is doing in your life and through your giving. Share your adventures together in a future group session.

### **CAUSES TO GIVE TO:**

<https://www.creeksidechurch.ca/give/>

<https://www.rayofhope.net/need-help/community-support/>

<https://iteams.ca/our-work/impact-ecuador/>

### **GIVING TOGETHER:**

Part of the fun of being a group is giving together! What could you group do together to make a Kingdom impact? Take some time in group to pray and then brainstorm together about how you might give.

Ideas:

- Plan to serve together for the Big Serve in June.  
<https://www.creeksidechurch.ca/thebigserve/>
- Identify a need in your neighbourhood and plan how you can help. BTW – this kind of thing “counts” for the Big Serve! Just let us know what you’re going to do. 😊
- As a group, challenge each other to sell something extra you have and pool your money to give to a need. See what God does in you through that experience and share it with your group in the weeks to come.

