

Small Group Discussion Guide
"What If You Were Wiser With Resources?"
Ephesians 5:15-20

Opening Prayer & Icebreaker

Icebreaker Question:

What's one purchase or decision you made in the past that you wish you could do over? (Keep it light—we've all been there!)

Introduction

This week, Pastor Mark challenged us to consider what it means to be wise stewards of everything God has entrusted to us—not just money, but time, relationships, gifts, and even our bodies.

The key insight: ****Every opportunity comes with responsibility and accountability before God.****

Scripture Reading

Have someone read aloud:

- ****Ephesians 5:15-20****
- ****Matthew 25:14-30**** (Parable of the Talents)

Discussion Questions

1. Opportunity, Responsibility, Accountability

Pastor Mark emphasized these three words as a through-line for understanding wisdom with resources.

- Which of these three concepts—opportunity, responsibility, or accountability—is easiest for you to embrace? Which is hardest? Why?
- How does viewing your resources as "entrusted to you by God" rather than "earned by you" change your perspective?

2. What Are You Filling Yourself With?

Ephesians 5:18 warns against being filled with wine (or anything that impairs wisdom) and instead calls us to be filled with the Spirit.

- What are some things in our culture that we're tempted to "fill ourselves with" instead of the Holy Spirit? (social media, news, negativity, entertainment, etc.)
- What does it practically look like to "be filled with the Spirit" in your daily life?

3. Security in God, Not Possessions

Job 31:24-28 warns against finding security in wealth rather than in God.

- In what ways are you tempted to find your security in your bank account, job, or possessions?
- How does your mood or sense of identity shift based on your financial situation?
- What would it look like to find your security in God alone this week?

4. Numbering Your Days

Psalm 90:12 says, "Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom."

- How intentional are you with your time? Where do you tend to waste it?
- Pastor Mark said, "I don't want to spend my life with people who want to waste my time." How do you balance being intentional with your time while also making room for rest and fun?

5. The Practice of Generosity

Proverbs 3:9-10 calls us to honor God with our wealth and the firstfruits of our income.

- What does "firstfruits giving" look like in your life? Do you give to God first, or does He get your leftovers?
- How does practicing generosity protect us from the trap described in Ecclesiastes 5:10—"Whoever loves money never has enough"?

6. Your Body as a Resource

Song of Songs 2:7 reminds us not to awaken love until the proper time—a call to honor God with our bodies.

- Why do you think Pastor Mark included our bodies as one of the resources we need wisdom with?
- How does our culture encourage us to be unwise with our bodies? How can we honor God in this area?

7. The Parable of the Talents

In Matthew 25:14-30, Jesus tells the story of three servants entrusted with different amounts. Two invested wisely; one hid his talent out of fear.

- Which servant do you most relate to right now? Why?
- The servant with one talent said, "I knew you were a hard man." How does what we believe about God's character affect how we steward what He's given us?
- What would it look like for you to "put to work" what God has entrusted to you this week?

Application

****Key Question:****

"What would the wiser you do?"

Go around the group and have each person share:

- One specific area where God is calling you to be wiser with your resources (time, money, gifts, relationships, body, etc.)
- One practical step you'll take this week to steward that resource more faithfully

Closing Prayer

Pray together:

- Thank God for all He has entrusted to each person in the group
- Ask for wisdom and the filling of the Holy Spirit
- Pray for faithfulness in stewarding opportunities, taking responsibility, and living with accountability to God
- Pray for anyone who made a decision to follow Jesus during the service

*This Sunday: NCC celebrates 7 years! Invite someone to join you as we launch a new series leading up to Easter.