



Notes | December 17, 2023

## How to Have Hope in Financial Stress

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Everyone experiences some form of financial pressure, and the Christmas season can increase that feeling. It's common for us to think that if we just had a little more, then we would be content. In reality, materials and money do not solve the feelings of discontent. In the Christmas story, however, we find that we can have lasting hope amidst financial stress by practicing gratitude, learning contentment, and prioritizing relationships.

### Key Scripture | Luke 2:19

Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.

### Related Scriptures

Luke 2:1-7, 10-11, 22-24, 51, Luke 12:15, Matthew 2:13-15, Leviticus 12:8, Hebrews 13:5

### Icebreakers:

Q: What's the craziest gift you've ever asked for?



## Key Thoughts and Reflections:

### I. Practice Gratitude.

Q: What are you thankful for in this holiday season?

Q: What are some things you're thankful for from this year?

Q: How could you cultivate a rhythm of gratitude? Who could you include in this practice?

### II. Learn Contentment.

Q: What are instances that cause you to grow discontent with what you have?

Q: What is a season of life you felt content? What made it that way?

Q: How would feeling more content improve your relationships?

### III. Prioritize Relationships.

Q: God doesn't always solve our financial pressure, but we always have access to Him. How could you better prioritize your relationship with God?

Q: Much of this season is centered around family but can still revolve around events/gifts. How could you better prioritize relationships this season?

Q: Who are people that would mutually benefit from quality time with you in this season?

## Get Practical

Throughout the week, spend time with God on:

- Identifying what you're grateful for.
- How you can take your eyes off idols that cause discontentment.
- Asking God how to prioritize relationships.