



Mar 9-10, 2024

Break the Ice

Ask your group to name a favorite game show they always watched while growing up. Then ask them to name any current game shows they enjoy watching. Ask why they love these game shows so much. Money will probably come up.

Share these insights:

- Jeopardy winner, Ken Jennings not only holds the record for most winnings on Jeopardy but also in all game shows all time. His total winnings? \$5,296,214.
- But winning all that money is often not all that it is cracked up to be. For example,
 - Winners have to pay both federal and state taxes based on where the game show is located. Most game shows are located in California which has a very high tax rate.
 - The winner doesn't receive their prizes until 90-150 days after they won.
 - Sometimes game show award winners are given cash in lieu of the prizes they won on-air.
 - Winners often turn down prizes because of extra costs (i.e., with a new car you have to pay extra taxes and insurance every year).
 - Prizes are sometimes not as expensive as they claim to be (i.e., the all-expenses paid trip to the Caribbean does not cost as much as what is stated)
 - Game show winners often experience adverse consequences to winning large amounts of money because they do not know how to handle the money. This is also seen with many lottery winners.
 - Winners have to pay extra fees for delivery of prizes, etc.

Even game shows are not what they seem to be. They tend to overpromise and under deliver.

Ask you group: How does this reflect Americans' attitudes concerning their money and possessions?

Transition: While often harmless fun, America's obsessions with game shows provide insight to what we spend most of our time chasing after. But why do we chase after something that God has already promised to provide?

Up

Read 1 Chronicles 29:10-20. This prayer was David's last official address to Israel and his son Solomon. The people had given back to God for the purpose of building a new temple. David praised God for blessing them so they could, in turn, bless God and others. In this prayer, David also declares that God is the source and owner of all good things. Ask your group the following:

- How is God's character revealed in David's words?
- What part of God's character displayed in the passage resonates with you right now?

In

God wants to work through us and use our money and possessions to serve others. But we have to come to a place where we trust Him more than we do our own ability to provide for ourselves. Ask the group to take some time to reflect on the following relationships and how God may want to work through their money and possessions to bless others:

- Their immediate family
- Their friends/colleagues
- Neighbors
- Strangers

Out

When we choose to trust God with our money and possessions, then we will have a looser grip on them. Rather than holding on to our stuff tightly, we will loosen our grip and allow God to take what is His and use it to bless others. This is particularly applicable in our relationship to nonbelievers. Ask the group to think about the following questions and share their response:

- Is there an unbeliever in your circle of influence who God may want to use your money and possessions to bless?
- How does God want to work through your money and possessions?

Prayer

Conclude your time by leading the group in praying the following:

- Express gratitude for God's financial blessings.
- Ask God to open your heart so you can be available for Him to work through you regarding your money and possessions.
- Ask God to show you people who need to be ministered to through your money and possessions.