

DISCUSSION IDEAS
GIVE, SAVE, LIVE

Prov. 6:6-11

January 29th, 2017

Page 1 of 4

**LAST WEEK WE TALKED ABOUT GIVING.
THIS WEEK WE WILL DISCUSS SAVING AND LIVING.**

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT ONE: HOW CAN MATERIAL WANTS AND NEEDS
DETRACT FROM OUR WALK WITH GOD?**

As believers, what is our purpose in life?

Look at Eph. 2:4-10.

In the context of God merging Jewish and Gentile believers into one body, look at what Eph. 2:19-22 calls us. Compare 1 Cor. 3:16-17.

What is a temple for?

How is the world to become aware of God?

Are we just to live happily here on Earth, or does God have a greater purpose for us?

So, if I am intended to be a part of God's work in the world, what types of things might distract me from His work?

What is the difference between "materialism" and just struggling to make a living and pay the bills?

Does it help to acknowledge that God actually owns everything, and that we are His stewards?

I say that I love Him – I say that He loves me – but do I really trust God in everything?

Discuss the idea of our running a race and the consequences of becoming entangled and weighted down by cares.

How does Heb. 13:5-6 fit into this discussion?

Talk about the Apostle Paul's attitude when he received a gift from the church at Philippi: Phil. 4:11-14.

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT TWO: HOW DOES SAVING MAKE A DIFFERENCE?**

Discuss Prov. 6:6-11. What are some of the benefits of saving – saving even a little?

Talk about saving first, as opposed to accepting the burden of interest payments on credit cards or loan payments.

How might paying off debts become a form of slavery to us?

How might saving enable us to not only help ourselves but to help others?

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT THREE: BUT WE STILL GOTTA LIVE!**

If we are truly committed to being responsible with our money and possessions, what do we do when our bills are exceeding our income?

DISCUSSION IDEAS
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Page 2 of 4

What can be the effect if we work hard and do good work?

What can we specifically do to live within our means?

How does knowing our financial status at all times help?

Is borrowing okay? When and when not?

Where can I get help when I struggle with these issues?

♦ **IDEAS:**

The following are some ideas that could be helpful if we need to reduce our expenses. (These were included in Sunday's message.)

Downsize: your house, car or commute —downsize big expenses to save a lot in a short time.

Cut the cord: get rid of cable. Between Netflix and Amazon Prime you can find your favorite shows without paying exorbitant cable charges.

Ditch the labels: Whether it's clothing or food, go for store brand instead of name brand.

Put it off: If possible, put off large purchases or expensive events until you've paid off your credit card debt.

DIY: Cut your own hair, cook and make coffee at home, hand wash your clothes, clean your own house and car or groom your pets — take on the tasks yourself that you usually outsource.

Barter: Trade your skills for services you need. For instance, you can do your neighbor's taxes while he tiles your floor.

Entertain yourself for less: Get books at the library instead of buying them, have a picnic in the park instead of a fancy dinner out.

Automate it: Some of your bills — like Internet or insurance — may be cheaper when automated. Companies want you to pay your bills on time, so some will give you a discount for automating payments.

Use less energy: Turn off lights and unplug electronics when not in use, turn your heat down and AC up, or hang dry instead of using a dryer. Preserving resources will save both the environment and your wallet — win, win!

Unsubscribe: Unsubscribe from paid subscriptions as well as free retail emails that tempt you with deals and coupons. These will cause you to buy when you don't need anything.

Lower your bills: Increase your insurance deductibles and decrease your data or Internet plan.

Comparison shop: When making a large purchase, price shop to ensure you're getting the best possible deal.

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DISCUSSION IDEAS
GIVE, SAVE, LIVE

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Page 3 of 4

♦ **FOR PRAYER:**

Pray for the Gettis family as they go through a two-week training session in Portland.

Continue to uphold the Shelter Valley believers, and the GCC team that serves there. Pray for Scott and Leslie Stevens as Scott heads up this ministry. Pray for continued growth in understanding among those who attend about God's Plan and what it really means to follow Him.

Pray for our home groups.

Pray for the leaders to grow in understanding and skill so that those in each group will truly grow in their walk in the Spirit and in true agape love.

Pray that more folks will take part in a home group and be encouraged as a result.

Let's continue to pray for the Lord's love and power to be seen in Baranganan Island.

Pray for wisdom and encouragement as both Ingvoldstads and Binders prepare to move off the island. Pray for wisdom, clear understanding of God's Word and continued obedience to the Holy Spirit on the part of the island church leaders.

Praise and continued prayer: Continue to uphold the Tagbanwa believers who go to a neighboring island every Friday to teach about God. Pray too for the hearers to respond.

"Continue to pray for them as there continues to be a solid group listening and interacting with God's Word. We often get to go, and its exciting to see `the body' in action.

"Not only are there teachers, but others go to support and engage this new group who is hearing. If you can believe it, there are even some who catch fish for the families who go so they won't miss a meal!

"Continue to pray for strength and endurance for those who go, as well as understanding for those who hear."

Thank God and uphold in prayer the "TFG" (Time For God) group of children and young folks who meet every day!

Pray with the strong, self-motivated women's group as they study God's Word and grow to be mature believers.

DISCUSSION IDEAS
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Prov. 6:6-11

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Page 4 of 4

Continue to pray for the John and Bobbie Pearson, as they plan with the Wycliffe Director in Spain regarding their involvement, as John completes a living area for his 101 year old mother, and for their son, John Caleb, who is dealing with severe cancer.