**Table Talk**

**Sermon Series: Reboot Your Life Financially**

**January 24, 2021**

**Introduction (8 min)**

Table Talk Groups (45 minute study) begin by watching the video and sharing the story below, then open up the discussion with the questions provided.

Southside Home (35 minute study) can skip to “Starting the Discussion” as a follow up to the worship experience.

**Table Talk Video: Reboot Your Life Financially**

A good friend of mine confessed to me that she had never tithed before. She was a believer, and wanted to tithe but just didn’t know how to pay her bills. This was all new territory for her.

Thankfully, I didn’t need to convince her that God was a generous God and wanted us to reflect and enjoy that part of his character. She was well aware of the generosity of God and had a desire to give to the church to support God’s mission in the world. She just didn’t know how.

Over a few conversations I tried to never make her feel guilty, but encouraged her to try. It would be sad to miss an opportunity for growth that God was clearly encouraging her to take. So we talked about setting goals for her giving and making a budget. This was all a stretch for her as a personal discipline but she agreed to try.

As we talked, it was clear she needed some additional help and support in figuring out how tithing would fit into her overall financial plan. And she realized she didn’t really have an overall financial plan and would need some help coming up with one of those as well.

She signed up for a new small group we were offering at church where we would go through Financial Peace University together. Those few conversations and the 9 weeks we spent going through FPU changed her life. She found financial freedom. She paid off her car. She paid off her student loans. She saved up an emergency fund. And, she was able to do all of that while consistently fulfilling the call of God on her heart to tithe to her local church. It took time, but no where near as long as she thought it would. Within the first month of the class she was already seeing growth personally and progress in her finances. Within six months she was paying off major debts and somewhere around the two year mark she was debt free!

God has a plan to bless your life and help you to walk in closer fellowship with him. I hope and pray you find joy in pursing God’s plan in the financial area of your life. When we do things God’s way we see his supernatural blessing change things in ways often too wonderful to imagine at the outset. Life is always better when we live it God’s way!

- Pastor Reggie Phillips

**Prayer (2 minutes)**

Thank you Lord, that you are indeed Lord of all. You are Lord of the Church and you set us on mission. You are Lord of our lives and you call us to serve in that mission. And you are Lord of our finances, resourcing us so that we can fund that mission. Help us today to see finances as the gift they are from you and surrender them to your plan. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.

**Starting the Discussion (3 minutes)**

1. Has God ever surprised you by providing financially for you through a miraculous or unexpected circumstance?

**Unfolding the Biblical Story (24 minutes)**

**Invite someone to read Genesis 1:27 and 2:7**

1. Since we are made to reflect God’s character through our physical and spiritual life, God’s character should guide how we think about our finances. What might be some guiding principles about how we view finances based on this truth?

**Read 2 Peter 1:3**

1. Where do our financial resources come from?
2. According to this verse, for what purpose does God share those resources with us?

**Invite someone to read Matthew 6:21**

1. Money is not an evil thing, but it can tempt our hearts away from allegiance to God. What is something money tempts your heart to focus on other than God’s plan for your life?
2. In what ways might money function as a tool to help focus your heart on God?

**Read Acts 2:44-45**

1. Whose responsibility is it to care for those who are in need? The needy? The government? A charitable organization? Immediate family? The Church?
2. The believers gave out of a desire to serve, not forced compulsion. Where does God excite your heart to give to those in need? What areas do you want to help support God’s mission financially and bless others at the same time?
3. What routines of generosity have you built into your regular acts of worshipping God? What routines do you want help or accountability with?

**Invite someone to read 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24**

1. How might your finances become a part of the sanctifying work the Lord desires to do in your life?

**Prayer (2 minutes)**

Thank you God that you would entrust your resources to us so that we could be a part of blessing our families and the world through participating financially in your mission. Thank you that you don’t withhold your blessings but allow us to share in them. Help us to be a blessing to others in the same ways that you have been to us. We love you Lord! In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.

**Wrapping Up (2 minutes)**

See if anyone has lingering questions or insights to share from your time of study and prayer. Summarize the group discussion as a reminder of what you learned together.

**Scripture Challenge (4 minutes)**

This week try to memorizing Matthew 6:21. Use any of the following tools to help you: write it out, repeat it a few times as a group, set it to music, or draw an image that incorporates the words.

**Bonus Challenge**

If you need help forming a financial plan that would honor God and improve the financial area of your life, then please click the link bellow to join our new Financial Peace University class at Southside church. This great group experience will provide clear answers, new ways of thinking about money, and lots of helpful encouragement as you make God honoring changes in the area of your finances!

<https://southsidechurchva.org/groups/group-detail/3004/financial-peace-university-fpu-in-person/>

As mentioned in this sermon series, you can also go to the You Version Bible App and download the Bible Project New Testament in a Year reading plan. This is a great way to download God’s word into your heart and mind and be refreshed spiritually. Click the link below to find the reading plan:

<https://www.bible.com/reading-plans/13233-new-testament-in-one-year-with-the-bible-project>