

Bulletin for Attitudes on Money

Business

Chalice Lighting

We are here to follow the promptings of our deepest heart. We are here with expectations, alive, spoken and unspoken.

We are here because we are human. Creatures of solitude and communion. Wanting wholeness, knowing brokenness.

We meet here once again to remind ourselves of what we already know. We open ourselves to word, story, song.

To whatever breaks in upon us or summons us to speak or act. Our time together affects our time apart.

We want to participate, to be known, to be loved. We know limits, yet so much is possible.

—*Mark Belletini*

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Silence

Shared Readings

It's not what you earn, it's what you spend.

—*Paul Clitheroe*

If earning money has begun to take up so much of our life that our friends, family, and hobbies must be put aside; if we hate going to work; if work is making us ill or forcing us to go against our values; then we have to make some serious decisions. Money is an important part of life, but it is not the whole of it. When the whole is seriously suffering, it may be time to simplify our desires and make some changes so that the whole of our life can be in balance.

—*Christine Robinson*

Money is a paradox in our culture—it enslaves, yet it also frees; it is intensely private, but it is also very public; it measures worth, yet it is no measure of real worth; it destroys yet also creates.

—*Anonymous*

Often the biggest problems aren't down to a lack of cash, but how to spend what you have.

—*Paula Hall*

Deep Sharing/Deep Listening

Round I

Go around the circle and pick one word to describe the feeling you had about money as a child. Choose one of these or any other word that comes to mind. In a few sentences tell a story about why you chose that word.

Deprived • Reward • Ignorant • Lucky • Worried • Uninterested • Smart
Independent • Poor • Controlled • Satisfied • Rich • Dependent • Oblivious

Round II

Share more deeply feelings, stories, and attitudes on money in response to the preparation material.

Round III

As time allows, share additional thoughts or reflect on what others have shared.

Closing Words

Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.—*Matthew 6:21*

Closing Activity

Closing Song

The Covenant

I commit myself:

- to come to meetings when I possibly can, knowing that my presence is important to the group.
- to let the leader know if I will be absent or need to quit.
- to share with the leader the responsibility for good group process by watching how much time I take to speak and noticing what is going on for others.
- to do the reading and thinking about the topic ahead of time.
- to not gossip about what is shared in the group, and tell only my own story to others.
- to honor the safety of the group by listening to what others share with an open heart.
- to refrain from cross-talk, judging, or giving advice.
- to share as deeply as I can when it is my turn.

Leader's Notes for Attitudes on Money

Business (5 min.)

Read the paragraph below to the group. Give a minute to think about it. The group may want to make some adjustments—say, a different song or a consistent closing ritual—but the overall covenant structure should remain as is.

This is our third meeting. I hope you are now at ease with the structure of our sessions. Let's take a few minutes to talk about any areas that we need to adjust. For instance, one member in a group felt anxious about not hearing all the sharing. This group developed a hand signal to alert members to speak clearly. Some may not be comfortable holding hands and may prefer a namaste position. What has been on your mind as we go through this experience together?

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Silence

Shared Readings

Deep Sharing/Deep Listening During your rounds of deep sharing/deep listening, pay close attention to the time allotted each person to ensure all get to share at least once.

Round I (about 2 min. per person)

Go around the circle and pick one word to describe the feeling you had about money as a child. Choose one of these or any other word that comes to mind. In a few sentences tell a story about why you chose that word.

Deprived • Reward • Ignorant • Lucky • Worried • Uninterested • Smart
Independent • Poor • Controlled • Satisfied • Rich • Dependent • Oblivious

Round II (about 2 min. per person)

Share more deeply feelings, stories, and attitudes on money in response to the preparation material.

Round III (about 2 min. per person)

As time allows, share additional thoughts or reflect on what others have shared.

Closing Words Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.—*Matthew 6:21*

Closing Activity

Invite people to hold hands around the chalice and say one or two words about an insight they have had this evening or the way they are feeling as we close.

Closing Song

Preparation for Attitudes on Money

In this session we will look at the role of money in our lives, ways our attitudes about it have been formed, and how that has influenced our lives.

Money is power, freedom a cushion, the root of all evil, the sum of blessings.—*Carl Sandburg*

There are basically three things we do with money: share it, save it, and spend it. It is good to be intentional about what these proportions will be and disciplined about carrying them out. The biblical tithing (10 percent) is a standard of sharing that many people adopt. We should be saving at least that much; in some periods of our life we should be saving more. If we cannot do these things, our spending is out of balance. We are encouraged in this society to spend as a cure for all that troubles us, but this is a false road. Overspending is an out-of-balance reaction to an out-of-balance life.—*Christine Robinson*

Sorting out the place of money in your life is the soul's work.—*Stephen Jenkinson*

Perhaps we cling to our affluence—even though it isn't working for us or the planet—because of the very nature of our relationship with money. As we shall see, money has become the movie screen on which our lives play out. We project onto money the capacity to fulfill our fantasies, allay our fears, soothe our pain, and send us soaring to the heights. In fact, we moderns meet most of our needs, wants, and desires through money. We buy everything from hope to happiness. We no longer live life. We consume it.—*Joe Dominguez*

Money often costs too much.—*Ralph Waldo Emerson*

Look at your attitude and behavior regarding money and ask yourself, “Are my behavior and attitude in line with the values I attempt to live by?” Our frustrations around money are often due to our behavior being out of sync with our values. That's when we find that our money is in control of us instead of us being in control of our money.—*Davis Fisher*

Questions to Ponder

1. What is your most significant childhood memory about money?
2. What did money represent in your family when you were growing up, and what were you taught about its use? What was the most important message your parents sent to you about money?
3. Think about the last few times you spent money on luxuries or “frills.” What motivated that spending? How did you feel?
4. Think about the last few times you gave money away. Why did you do it? How did you feel?