ENTRUSTED | WEEK 4

NOVEMBER 1ST, 2026

Love God and Love Others | *MATTHEW 22:34-40*

LEADER GUIDE

Read: Matthew 22:34-40

Main Idea

God has entrusted us with resources to love and honor Him and to love others. When we align our financial decisions with God's heart and commands, our budget becomes a reflection of what matters most to Him.

Icebreaker

Let's play a fun game of Would You Rather: Money Edition! Choose one option for each question. You can't pick both!

1. Would you rather have a $500 shopping spree or a $500 dinner with friends?
2. Would you rather spend money on experiences or possessions?
3. Would you rather get a big tax refund or find $200 cash in an old jacket?
4. Would you rather have a paid-off house or a luxury car?
5. Would you rather spend $1,000 on yourself or have someone surprise you with a $1,000 gift?
6. Would you rather get anything you want for free for a year or receive $10,000 cash today?

Transition

It's fun to see how differently we all think about money! Some of us love spending on experiences, others enjoy buying things, and some of us would rather have financial security.

Our choices often reveal what we value most. The same is true of

our everyday financial decisions. In Matthew 22, Jesus gives us two commandments that should guide every area of our lives, including our finances: love God and love others.

Today, we're going to talk about how the way we manage our money can reflect our love for God and the people around us.

Summary

In Matthew 22, Jesus was asked which commandment was the greatest. His answer was simple: Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind, and love your neighbor as yourself.

Being a good steward doesn't have to be complicated. Just as Jesus summarized the law in two great commandments, we can evaluate our finances by asking whether the way we manage our money reflects our love for God and others.

Putting God first means allowing our giving to shape the rest of our financial decisions. Rather than giving God whatever is left over, we honor Him with our firstfruits and allow our other priorities to adjust accordingly.

But honoring God goes beyond what we give to the church. It should also be reflected in how we manage our everyday expenses, provide for our families, prepare for the future, and leave room to be generous toward others.

We also need to examine our hearts. It's possible to give out of pride, guilt, a desire for recognition, or even the expectation that God will bless us financially in return. God is concerned with the heart behind our generosity, not simply the amount we give.

Ultimately, our budget should be more than a financial plan. It

should be a reflection of our love for God and others.

Discussion Questions

1. What stood out to you most from Sunday's teaching? What challenged, convicted, or encouraged you personally?
2. Read Matthew 22:37-40. Jesus simplified the law into two great commandments: Love God and love others. How does viewing money as a tool to fulfill these two commands change the way you think about your finances and the purpose of your budget?
3. Read Proverbs 3:9-10. Honoring God with our firstfruits means allowing our giving to shape the rest of our financial decisions. How would approaching your budget with this mindset change the way you determine what you can afford, what you prioritize, and what you may need to sacrifice?
4. After prioritizing our giving to God, we are still responsible for faithfully managing the rest of our finances. When you examine your budget, are there expenses or financial commitments that have become disproportionate or are creating unnecessary stress for you or your family? How might adjusting those priorities help you better honor God?
5. Loving others should also be reflected in how we manage our resources. We should leave room in our budgets to be generous toward others when God leads us. How intentional are you about creating that margin in your finances? What might need to change for you to be more available to meet the needs of others?
6. Sometimes we give because we expect God to bless us financially, while other times we give because we want to feel good about ourselves or receive recognition from others. How can we examine our motives and make sure our generosity is truly motivated by love for God and others?

Additional Questions

7. Read Luke 18:9-14. The Pharisee took pride in his giving and looked down on others. How can comparing our generosity to others lead us toward either pride or discouragement? What does it look like to give with humility and a genuine desire to honor God, regardless of the amount?

8. The illustration of the atlas bone reminds us that when it is properly aligned, it helps bring the rest of the spine into alignment. How does this illustration help you understand the importance of putting God first in your finances? Where might your financial priorities currently be out of alignment?

9. When you think about the way you spend money on your family, your lifestyle, and your future, how can you distinguish between enjoying God's blessings and allowing those blessings to become more important than honoring Him?

Application

This week, take some time to review your budget or look back at your spending over the past month.

As you examine your finances, consider these two questions:

- Does the way I manage my money reflect that I love and honor God?
- Does the way I manage my money reflect that I love others?

Start by recognizing your income as God's provision. Then consider whether your giving reflects that God is your first priority or whether other expenses are determining what you have left to give.

Next, look at the rest of your financial decisions. Are there expenses that need to be adjusted? Are you managing your

resources wisely and preparing for the future? Have you created margin to be generous toward others when God leads you?

Finally, examine your heart. Are you giving out of gratitude and love for God, or are you allowing pride, guilt, fear, or a desire for recognition to influence your decisions?

Identify one specific adjustment you can make this week to better align your finances with God's priorities.

Remember, God isn't asking everyone to give the same amount. He is calling each of us to take our next step of faithfulness and generosity, honoring Him with what He has entrusted to us.

Pray

Father, thank You for being our faithful provider and for entrusting us with resources to honor You and love others. Forgive us for the times we have allowed our own desires, fears, or priorities to shape the way we manage what belongs to You. Help us to put You first in every financial decision and to give with hearts that are humble, joyful, and sincere. Give us wisdom to steward our resources well and generosity to respond when You lead us to meet the needs of others. May the way we give, spend, save, and manage our money reflect our love for You and bring glory to Your name. In Jesus' Name, amen.