



Week 3: Look Beyond Today

GET GOING

When we only focus on what is right in front of us we miss the bigger picture. When we lack perspective in our finances we never seem to have enough for today, let alone what we hope to accomplish down the road. Many want to be more generous but cannot seem to find the margin. In the whirlwind of life, gaining perspective and keeping perspective can be hard. But getting perspective is one of the most powerful steps we can take to mastering our financial world because when we see as God sees, we will live as God leads.

DISCUSS

1. **Does anyone here go shopping on Black Friday? Why or why not? Tell us about a time when you got a great deal.**
2. **When have you experienced buyers remorse? Why do you think we experience remorse over a purchase?**
3. Read Luke 12:13-21. **How was the man doing financially?** (Answer: He had more than he knew what to do with, v.17). **What did he decide to do with all the abundance? Why?** (Answer: build barns; so he could just take it easy in life, vv.18-19).
4. Jesus made an interesting comment in verse 15, "Life does not consist in an abundance of possessions." **What do you think that means? How would you explain that to a junior high student? Why do you think this is so important for us when it comes to money?**
5. **Planning is commended in other parts of the Bible. So it wasn't the man's plan to build barns that God condemned. Why did God disapprove of the man's plans?** (Answer: the man only planned on how to have a great life for himself instead of how to make someone else's eternity great. And so he was not "rich toward God," v.21).
6. **Can you think of someone's life that you, or someone you know, has improved or redirected through generosity? Share that story with us.**
7. **Let's learn from each other. What is one of the most helpful habits or pieces of advice you have put into practice in your financial life?**

8. What is the number one thing that you want to put into practice as a result of this series?

WRAP IT UP

When we live without perspective our houses are crowded with stuff. But when we gain an eternal perspective heaven becomes crowded with stories of people whose lives have been changed. Make it point this week to write down your next step in the area of finances so that you'll continue to see as God sees and live as God leads.