northchurch

Group Discussion Guide

Shrewd Investments

Sunday, February 5, 2012

Read

Read the parable in Luke 16:1-13. In verse 8, Jesus gives us a surprise ending of the story. How would you rephrase Jesus' main point of this parable?

Discuss

Your stuff is a tool…

Jesus challenges us to use our "stuff" as a tool for eternal purposes… to invest shrewdly for results that will make a difference. Can you think of examples of ways you've used your stuff for God's purposes? Hint: any time you use your stuff to bless other people or invest your time to extend God's kingdom "counts" as a shrewd investment. As a group, brainstorm ways you could leverage your stuff or your time for God's purposes.

Your stuff is a test…

In verses 10-12, Jesus tells us that the way we use our stuff is a kind of test. What do you think the test reveals? What do you think Jesus is talking about when He says we've been "trusted with very little"? In verse 11, what do you think are the "true riches" Jesus refers to?

Your stuff is a trademark…

Jesus is pretty direct in verse 13. He says that how we handle our money reveals where our true allegiance in life is… it's like a trademark. He also says there's no such thing as a dual-trademark or dual-allegiance, "You cannot serve both God and money." Jesus wants all of our heart, 100%, but "stuff" is a fierce competitor for our heart's allegiance. Have you experienced that this is true? As a group, discuss steps you have taken (or could take) to keep God as your heart's focus.

Pray

Reserve at least the last 15 minutes of group time to pray for the things that came up during your discussion and any other prayer needs.