

The Benjamins – Week 1

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**HIGH SCHOOL AND ADULT GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS****GROUP PREP**

In preparation for group, [watch Emmanuel's weekend service message](#) and then answer the following discussion questions.

**SOCIAL TIME (10-15 minutes)**

Ice-Breaker suggestion: What is the craziest thing you have ever purchased? Consider items from your childhood, teen years, or adult life that stand out.

**CHECK-IN (15-20 minutes)**

Last week we were challenged with the following questions: What is one characteristic of Jesus that you will take on this week? Where and who are you going to serve? What can you do to go the extra mile in servanthood? Ask everyone to describe how their action step went this past week.

**GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (45-60 minutes)**

This week we started a new series called The Benjamins. Money and life are intertwined, and it is practically impossible to separate yourself from the need for money. The Bible is full of wisdom and caution regarding money. There are over 2,300 verses in the Bible that are about money and possessions. Although sometimes uncomfortable, we must explore what God says about money so we have the opportunity to relate to it healthily.

1. If you were to map out a visual of your finances in a pie chart, what categories would fill the largest sections? How big of a slice would be titled 'generous giving'?

When you consider your pie chart, how do you think you arrived at your current relationship with money? Perhaps you model your life after someone you know, or you learned what not to do because of past experiences.

In what ways does culture pressure us to love or pursue money or to spend it on particular items?

2. Pastor Danny challenged us to consider our relationship with money. As we begin to evaluate our own lives, let's look at a short but powerful illustration from two gospel accounts of the same event.

Read [Mark 12: 41-44 \(NLT\)](#) and [Luke 21: 1-4 \(NLT\)](#)

Why do you think Jesus told this story?

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What did the widow's offering show about her heart, and how was her gift different than the rich people's gifts?

3. If this form of giving were easy, everyone would be doing it. Why is it difficult to look at money the way that the widow did?

Describe a modern-day example of someone you know who gave like this widow?

4. Money is a test. While most people are not excited about tests, this one brings great benefit to us. There are four ways that money is a test – it's a test of our work ethic, stewardship, love, and character.

Read [Proverbs 21:5 \(NIV\)](#)

As stated in this passage, diligence is a critical factor in creating a healthy view and use of money. In what ways would you personally benefit if you developed a more healthy relationship with money?

If you were to create a one-year and five-year mission statement for your finances, what kinds of short-term and long-term goals would you include?

What is one action step you can take this week to begin building a healthy relationship with money? How might you use your resources this week to demonstrate love for people?

**ACTION STEP (10-15 minutes)**

Choose one of the following or create your own.

- **Make a plan** to save \$100 to take a Financial Peace University class in January.
- **Do** a complete inventory of how your money was spent over the last month and create a budget for better planning in the future.
- **Memorize** scripture.
- **Read** the Bible in one year as a group. You can find many reading plans on the YouVersion Bible App, and it allows group members to share thoughts about the text you will read.
- **Daily time with God.** Determine the type of routine you'd like to have to spend time learning about what pleases God. Here are some ways to do this:
  - o [Download the Emmanuel app](#) and read the One Year New Testament daily.
  - o [Download the YouVersion app](#) and find a devotion you can do every day.
  - o If you recently placed your faith in Christ and texted SAVED to 65248, read the devotional provided in your starter kit.

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**PRAYER (5-10 minutes)**

Give everyone in your group an index card. Ask them to write their name and action step on one side and a prayer request on the other. When finished, have everyone pass their cards to the left. Everyone in the group now has someone to connect with throughout the coming week for three reasons:

- 1) To build the relationship
- 2) To encourage to accomplish their action step
- 3) To pray for in a specific way

Ask them to place the index card on their nightstand or another place that would allow them to see it and use it every day.

**GROUP SERVING OPPORTUNITIES**

To determine how your group can serve together in the surrounding community, email Breanne Schafer, Emmanuel's Outreach Coordinator, at [bschafer@eclife.org](mailto:bschafer@eclife.org).

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

November 16-20 | Last week of Small Groups semester

November 7 | [VERB](#)

November 18 | [1824](#)

November 13 | [Surviving the Holidays](#)

December 6 | [Impact Team Night](#)

December 11-12 | [Baptism Services](#)

[December 18-19 | Christmas Weekend Services](#)

January 2-3 | [Passion Conference](#)- (For 1824 age group.)

*You can find more information on all of these events at [eclife.org](http://eclife.org).*

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