



[study guide]

IN GOD WE TRUST: Week 2

5.26.13

[set up]

In your day-to-day life, what do you worry about most? How does that worry affect your relationship with God? With others?

Briefly share about a time you trusted God, and He came through for you. (finances, relationship, illness...)

Share a situation you're facing now where you are finding it really difficult to trust God.

What is the relationship between having anxiety about our lives and possessions and trusting in God?

[digging deeper]

As you reflect on last the message "The Practice of Trust" from Matthew 6, what one principle or insight stands out as being particularly helpful, insightful, or difficult to grasp?

Read Matthew 6:19-21 and Matthew 6:24. Clearly, these verses lead into Jesus' teaching about worry. How do "laying up treasure on earth" and "serving money" increase worry?

Author Randy Alcorn once wrote, "Materialism is the mother of anxiety." What do you think he meant by that? What does that teach about a strategy to overcome worry?

On the basis of Matthew 6:26-30, how might "looking at the birds" and "considering the lilies" help reduce our anxiety? What is Jesus' main argument in comparing us to birds and lilies?

What huge promise is given in Matthew 6:32 and how can we rest in that promise to reduce our anxiety?



[study guide]

Matthew 6:33 says, “Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.” Read the following: “The kingdom of God is what epic tales of good and evil are all based on. A good king faces a mutiny of His rule led by a devious enemy. The supposedly deposed king has a plan to win back the affection and allegiance of His people. A brave Champion is sent to do battle for the sake of the very rebels who spurned the loving authority of the king in the first place. This fight will cost this Champion His life. The enemy is defeated and dethroned. The Champion rises victorious. His people acknowledge Him for who He is. His people invite others to come under His good and wise rule. Jesus is the King.” What are ways we can “seek... the kingdom of God” with our time? With our talent? With our treasure?

Read Proverbs 3:9-10. How does God call us to honor Him with our money? What is the promise that He gives in verse 10? Read also Proverbs 3:5-6 and talk about how they relate to each other.

Read Leviticus 23:9-10, Numbers 15:20, Deuteronomy 26:2-4, and Nehemiah 10:35. What do these OT passages teach us about giving our firstfruits to God?

Re-read Matthew 6:33. What does “all these things” mean? What assurance does that give us? Read and discuss Philippians 4:14-19 and 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 for more clarity.

[living it out]

What is the biggest obstacle for you in trusting God with your money and resources? (fear, reputation/image, past, etc.) What are some ways these obstacles can be overcome? (See Romans 10:17)

How could you practically trust God and be more generous with your money and resources? How could we as a community trust God and be more generous with our money and resources?

What has God been saying to you from Matthew 6:25-34 and what are you going to do about it?

Take a moment and pray for each other – ask God to give the faith and trust that is necessary for you to seek first the kingdom of God.