

## Small Group/Sermon Notes based on Abundant Life Skills 3

Remember, small groups are primarily for growing closer relationships with other believers. We can learn wonderful things in this environment but keep relationships first.

- Make sure everyone knows each other's names. Have everyone share a little about themselves and how life is going right now.
- There are basic life skills we all need to succeed in life
- But we are called not just to live life, but to live Abundant Life!
  - Look at some Bible promises: **Proverbs 3:1-2 and John 10:10.**
  - Does just reading those verses bring you those promises?
    - Of course not! Just reading those promises doesn't do us any good unless we develop the "Abundant Life Skills" we need!
- This Week: Money.
- Failing to handle money the right way can take you out of abundant life!
- Let's look at both our practical and emotional relationships with money.
- Emotional: Just going to broach the subject.
  - People have an emotional relationship with money. What's yours?
  - If someone put 10 \$100 bills in your hand what would you do? Hold it up? Hide it? Give them a hug? Worry what their motives were?
  - Emotional relationships with money may be based on: fear, love, insecurity, short term gratification, jealousy, unworthiness or it may even be distant. Recognize any of those?
  - Whatever your emotional relationship with money is know this: money does not feel the same way about you! Money doesn't love you, it doesn't hate you, it's not embarrassed by you, etc. In fact, it doesn't care at all about you.
  - Look at your emotional relationship with money. What is working? What isn't?
- Money makes a great servant but an evil master. How do we get it to serve us?
- Develop your earning potential...the earlier the better.
  - Self observation: Did that pull an emotional trigger? Why?
  - **Deuteronomy 8:17-18.**
    - Earning potential is from God! Embrace and develop that!
  - Now, money can be earned in evil ways too. **James 5:1-6.**
    - Earn in Godly ways and be guilt free!
  - You can only serve one master. **Matthew 6:24.** So make money your servant.
- Live within your means...really!
  - To do this there are a few things you must conquer.
  - Covetousness. **Exodus 20:17.** This will make you spend more than you should. Discuss the difference between needs and wants.
  - Pride. "Buying things you don't need with money you don't have to impress people you don't like." Have you ever done that?
  - Impulsiveness. **Proverbs 26:15.** Imagine that! Have you ever bought something you didn't use? Made something to eat but didn't eat it?
  - Basic Math! Ok, so that's boring...but it's true!
- Understand God's Economy. Read **Malachi 3 (giving emphasis is vv 8-12)**
  - What can you learn about giving from these verses?
    - The promise is that we will have more not less.
  - Is it money that God is interested in? God doesn't love money...He loves you.
  - **Malachi 3:16-18** describes a scroll. What do you think the deal is with that?
  - There is now a book in heaven. **Revelation 20:11-15.** You can have your name in that book. It's the same process as in Malachi. Fear the Lord. Honor His name. Serve the Lord.
- Pray for each other before you finish up!