Leaders Handout

Talk it Over

Follow: Sacrifice

(Take home point- Following Jesus means everything we have is His, including our money)

Ice Breaker: When was the last time you had to make a sacrifice for someone?

Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “Whoever

wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow

me.

**Mark 8:34**

(Point out that we are called to sacrifice in this verse "deny themselves and take up their cross")

**"Relationships Require Sacrifice"**

Why does a relationship require sacrifice?

Describe how Jesus sacrifice for you has affected you?

Sometime later God tested Abraham. He said to him, “Abraham!” “Here I am,” he

replied. Then God said, “Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and

go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a

mountain I will show you.” **Genesis 22:1-2**

"God calls us to sacrifice, even our money!"

Why do you think money is such a tough subject?

Why do so many people think the church just wants people's money? (It’s ok for people to vent here a little bit, but don't let it turn into a gossip/gripe time against other churches!)

As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the

temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins.

“Truly I tell you,” he said, “this poor widow has put in more than all the

others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of

her poverty put in all she had to live on.” **Luke 21:1-4**

Why did Jesus take notice of such a small gift? (This should draw out that it wasn't about the amount of the giving, but the heart of sacrifice)

**Principles of Giving:**

1) Every Dollar is **God's** (This point is trying to give us a new understanding when it comes to our money. We don't give to God, we give back, and God lets us keep some.)

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. **Genesis 1:1**

What do you have that God didn't give you?

"God beckons storm clouds and they come. He tells the wind to blow and the rain

to fall, and they obey immediately. He speaks to the mountains, 'You go there,'

and He says to the seas, 'You stop here, and they do it. Everything in all

creation responds in obedience to the Creator...until we get to you and me. We

have the audacity to look God in the face and say, 'No." David Platt

Why do we call Jesus "Lord", then tell him "no" when it comes to our money?

2) Every Dollar has **Meaning** (This should help the group understand that what we spend our money on shows who our Master is)

“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and

love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You

cannot serve both God and money. **Matthew 6:24**

Who does your money say your master is?

3) Every Dollar is **Important** (This should reinforce that it's not about the amount, but the heart behind it!)

(Talk about Mark 6: when Jesus takes the 5 fish a 2 loaves to)

What is one thing that you spend money on that God might consider a waste? (Help them with the idea that money is not evil, but a tool that can be used either to build God's Kingdom or for selfish desires)

A **Savings** Plan, A **Spending** Plan, and A **Giving** Plan (Having a plan will help people take control of their finances. Reinforce that if we don't take control and give it to God, often our money will control us!

Does God control your finances, or do your finances control you?

What is your giving plan going to be?