



TRU\$T Week 1 – Own Nothing Spiritual Formation & Discussion Guide

We hope you'll use this guide to take the teaching from Sunday's service and reflect on it with a few friends or a group. If you have questions or want to talk more about how to take your next spiritual step, contact us at info@wschurch.org.

Scripture:

¹⁴ "Again, the Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a man going on a long trip. He called together his servants and entrusted his money to them while he was gone. ¹⁵ He gave five bags of silver to one, two bags of silver to another, and one bag of silver to the last—dividing it in proportion to their abilities. He then left on his trip.

¹⁶ "The servant who received the five bags of silver began to invest the money and earned five more. ¹⁷ The servant with two bags of silver also went to work and earned two more. ¹⁸ But the servant who received the one bag of silver dug a hole in the ground and hid the master's money.

¹⁹ "After a long time their master returned from his trip and called them to give an account of how they had used his money. ²⁰ The servant to whom he had entrusted the five bags of silver came forward with five more and said, 'Master, you gave me five bags of silver to invest, and I have earned five more.'

²¹ "The master was full of praise. 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let's celebrate together!'

²² "The servant who had received the two bags of silver came forward and said, 'Master, you gave me two bags of silver to invest, and I have earned two more.'

²³ "The master said, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let's celebrate together!'

²⁴ "Then the servant with the one bag of silver came and said, 'Master, I knew you were a harsh man, harvesting crops you didn't plant and gathering crops you didn't cultivate. ²⁵ I was afraid I would lose your money, so I hid it in the earth. Look, here is your money back.'

²⁶ "But the master replied, 'You wicked and lazy servant! If you knew I harvested crops I didn't plant and gathered crops I didn't cultivate, ²⁷ why didn't you deposit my money in the bank? At least I could have gotten some interest on it.'

²⁸ “Then he ordered, ‘Take the money from this servant, and give it to the one with the ten bags of silver. ²⁹ To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away. ³⁰ Now throw this useless servant into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’
Matthew 25:14-30

“The earth is the LORD’s, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to him.”
Psalm 24:1

Reflection Questions:

- What is one of your most prized possessions? What makes it so valuable to you?
- What stood out to you from Sunday’s service? How did you sense God encouraging and challenging you through the songs, the message, and being with others as part of the church? (The message’s main points and scripture are listed below if it helps you remember key moments from the teaching.)
- When it comes to some of the big pieces of your life (finances, relationships, job, responsibilities, etc.), do you see yourself more as an owner or as a manager? Why do you think that is?
- Eddie spent time walking through the parable from Matthew 25 in his message. Take a moment to read through the whole story from Matthew 25:14-30 several times. What do you notice as you hear Jesus’ words?
- An important truth from this story is that the servants were not the owners...and neither are we. Read this quote from the message out loud: “Here’s a challenging question for you: **How much could you own and still view yourself as a manager, not an owner?** Whatever amount that is, don’t allow yourself to exceed it. If you need to give some things away in order to make it back to that place, do it. Friend, your soul cannot survive a long-term obsession with having more.” Take a moment to write out your answer on your own, then share as much as you’re willing with your group or a trusted friend.
- Eddie shared several takeaway points from Jesus’ teaching in the parable:
 - beware the ownership mentality (an obsession with ownership is dangerous)
 - stewards care for what they receive better than owners
 - God intends money to be riskedWhich of these do you need to hold onto this week especially? Why is that?
- Read Psalm 24:1. How does your perspective to people, things, and the world adjust when you remember that **all is God’s, all the time?**
- “In your heart of hearts, you must determine to OWN NOTHING, but to care for everything that God places under your care.” What’s one practical way you can live out this determination this week?
- Is there anything else from this teaching that you want to explore more?
- Eddie invited us to pray a challenging prayer: “God, I do not ask for what you’ve given to others. Instead, I ask for what you know is right for me.” Take a moment to pray the words of that prayer, then add your own words to it. Let this prayer prompt you toward a posture of surrender – of letting God be the owner of everything.

Want some practical help with your financial health?

Go to www.wschurch.org/money to see a list of a wide variety of resources and tools.

Visit www.wschurch.org/resources to see additional tools and resources for spiritual growth.

Message Main Points and Scripture:

- The Parable of the Talents

- Matthew 25:14 - “Again, the Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a man going on a long trip. He called together his servants and entrusted his money to them while he was gone. He gave five bags of silver to one, two bags of silver to another, and one bag of silver to the last – dividing it in proportion to their abilities. He then left on his trip.”
- **“God, I do not ask for what you’ve given to others. Instead, I ask for what you know is right for me.”**
- Romans 12:3 – “I give each of you this warning: do not think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves.”
- Matthew 25:22 - “The servant who had received the two bags of silver came forward and said, ‘Master, you gave me two bags of silver to invest, and I have earned two more.’ The master said, ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together!’”
- **God does not give us equal responsibility, but he will give us equal approval.**
- **All is God’s, all the time.**
- Matthew 25:18 – “But the servant who received the one bag of silver dug a hole in the ground and hid the master’s money.”
- **The first thing I want you to take from Jesus’ story is to beware the ownership mentality.**
- **In life, an obsession with ownership is dangerous.**
- Matthew 6:24 - “No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.”
- **The second takeaway is that stewards care for what they receive better than owners.**
- Psalm 24:1 – “The earth is the LORD’s, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to him.”
- **Here is one final takeaway from this parable: God intends money to be risked.**