

**Series: Practice Makes Perfect**

**Week #4**

**Message: Practice for Clarity**

**Date: June 26/27**

**Passage: Luke 12:13-34**

We are continuing our series on Practice Makes Perfect and this week we are talking about the Practice of Clarity. Our clarity is really defined by the things we trust in. Where we put our trust is in many ways what guides our thinking and decision making. This week, we will look at how clarity with our time, treasures and talents define what's most important to us.

**1. Introduction: In your life, who is someone you can trust with anything?**

**Leaders Tip:** Allow 5-7 minutes for people to respond.

**2. Observation: Read Luke 12:13-34. What do you learn about trusting in money and/or possessions? What do you learn about trusting in God?**

**Leaders Tip:** Tip: Allow 12-15 minutes for your group to respond. Jesus' story in v. 13-21 focuses on what it looks like to live a life consumed with money and possessions: it's not what life is about (15); it makes us greedy and discontent (15); it gives us false hope (18); we become foolish (20); it blinds us to the brevity of life (20); it competes with our relationship with God (21).

By contrast, Jesus told us that a life based on trusting God looks like this: life is not about possessions (23); if God cares for the birds, we can be confident that He will care for us (24); worrying accomplishes nothing (25-26); God will give us what we need...if we focus on His Kingdom interests (31); giving to those who have needs gives us eternal treasures (33); our heart/thoughts are guided by what we value (34).

**3. Understanding: In what ways do you see people trusting in money more than God?**

**Leaders Tip:** Tip: Allow 5-7 minutes to respond. This question will help group members identify our motivations behind pursuing money and possessions: it impresses people, brings us power and influence, can give us a sense of security. Trusting in God means we can't control what happens and it can lead us to wonder if God really knows what is best for us or will do what we want Him to do in our lives.

**4a. Application: Where do you tend to trust in money or possessions more than God?**

**Leaders Tip:** Allow your group 10-12 minutes to respond. Listen carefully as group members begin to personally identify with some of the reasons listed in question #3. This will give you insight into some of their personal struggles.

**4b. Application: What would your life look like if you were to trust more in God than money or possessions?**

**Leaders Tip:** Encourage group members to go back to their learning's in verses 22-34 (in question #2) in trying to answer this question. Also, ask them to be **as specific as possible** in identifying some ways that they could take some new steps of trusting in God instead of money.

***Greater Impact Question of the week – How can you give more of your time treasure and talents to the work God is doing at SCG?***

**Leaders Tip:** Soon we will be in a new Worship Center and enjoying a much improved campus. We don't want to forget why SCG is moving forward as a church and creating a place for more people to know and worship Christ. For the next several weeks we want the participants in your small group to talk about how they can make a greater impact. Spend a few minutes asking your group the question above. It's important that as a church we don't lose sight of where and why we are going there.

**Pray:** Close in prayer.

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**Attention All Leaders**

You're invited to our next training! Also please invite any emerging or potential leaders in your group or that you may know. If every group at SCG launched a new leader this year then we would double the number of people able to participate in a small group. We will have fun as we learn together.

**The Art of Asking a Great Question – Essential Training for Small Groups Leaders**

*Wednesday, July 14<sup>th</sup> – 7:00-8:30pm – The Ranch House Room #103* Nothing generates a great discussion like a fantastic question. As a leader, great questions tee you up for success. In this conversation, we will show you how to ask great questions, questions that deepen relationships and result in life change. Join us as we learn the secrets to using great questions, how to ask a question beyond the question, how to write your own great questions and much more. Light snacks and drinks will be provided. RSVP to Sally at [sally@seacoastgrace.org](mailto:sally@seacoastgrace.org)

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