

The
Money
Devotional



HOME GROUP
**LEADER
GUIDE**



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Home Group study: Leader Notes

Welcome to the Crown Money Devotional Study

This study is designed to fit into your current small / home group study format whether you meet during the day or evening and enables you to include this as an integral part of your church fellowship programme. The approach differs from the our 10 week course, normally run in separate groups, which we recommend as a follow up to this series of Home group studies.

We recommend that each leader studies *Your Money Counts* and / or *Money Matters*. This is good preparation and provides you with insights to share with your group.

You will have your own way of leading the group and so we would like to make some suggestions that you might like to consider integrating into your meeting.

About Crown Financial Ministries

Crown has offices in the five major continents of North and South America, Africa, Asia and Europe, where the ministry is headed up by Peter Briscoe who lives in Holland but hails from Newcastle.

Crown is an inter-denominational Christian ministry that was formed in 1976 and reaches out to all those who believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. Our core values include recognition of God's ownership of all things, the need to pray about everything, and the desire to equip and serve others with excellence while teaching in ways understood by all cultures and generations.

Crown's raison d'être

Over 30 years ago Howard Dayton studied the Bible to discover there were over 2,350 verses concerning how we handle our money, wealth and possessions. At the time Howard was running a property business. Following this time of study, Howard felt called by God to write a course on 'biblical financial studies.' The study that Howard wrote, accompanied by the book *Your Money Counts*, form the cornerstone of Crown's Home group study programmes. Crown has available a range of books and guides together with accompanying studies that are designed to provide understanding and practical tools to assist in the godly management of finances, wealth and possessions.

About the author: Mark Lloydbottom

The UK ministry is headed up by Mark and Rhoda Lloydbottom. Mark is a chartered accountant and has enjoyed a 25-year career, including starting and managing three businesses. His first business was an accountancy practice in Bristol that employed

over 50 staff and advised over 1,000 clients on all aspects of personal and business tax and financial planning. Mark built this business up over a period of 16 years and during this time also started a business known as Practice Track, which grew to become the largest provider of solutions to accountancy practices for marketing to their clients and potential clients.

Mark and his wife Rhoda were called by God to head up the Crown Financial Ministries work here in the UK in May 2006. From July 2007 to February 2008 they were based in Atlanta studying and working on the plans for Crown as well as anglicising some of the books from American English to the Queen's English. No mean task!

Your preparation for leading this course

We recommend that you spend some time preparing to lead this study – it is a really important area of our faith as you will find as you study the recommended background resource materials. We ask that you read either *Your Money Counts* or *Money Matters*. This will give you some further background understanding of the subject that you will cover during the following five weeks. Each week we will provide the recommended background study materials. You will need to give your group members a copy of the overview (pages 32-33) and the first week's memory verses and key quotes (page 34) together with a copy of the 'pray for one another' (page 39) *for their* prayer request. Each member will also requires a copy of *The Money Devotional*.

Other publications

We recommend that you look at the *Practical Application Workbook*. It is intended as a personal and private financial planning tool and is fully supported with online materials and downloadable forms. It does not form an integral part of this course, but it is complementary to group members as they journey through these biblical studies. These studies provide a compelling case for ensuring that the practical aspect of our finances are in accord with our spiritual understanding.

Biblical Financial Study

We recommend that church leaders plan to start a 10-week *Biblical Financial Study* as a follow-up to this course as this will provide an environment when group members can study *Biblical Finance* more in depth. This course will really help people learn and apply biblical financial principles in an environment where they can support and encourage one another. The course does includes the *Practical Application Workbook* as an integral component of the study programme. We recommend that this be introduced to the group in week 3.

Your options

No matter how long you are used to meeting, this Home group leader study will provide you with the resource you require to run your group whether it be for an hour or two. Each Home group study member of your group will require a copy of *The Money Devotional* and a copy of the study guide for each of the five studies. This is included in the handout materials.

We recommend that you encourage group members to use the *Practical Application Workbook* as this will be of great assistance to those who wish to get their finances in order. This book is about more than establishing a balanced budget – it is an integral element of the spiritual study journey that complements your study of *The Money Devotional*.

We recommend that you ask the group members to learn either a verse (recommended) each week or a key quote. These are all shown in the book's margins and also summarised at the end in Home group member forms. You will need to let your group members have a list of these a week before the first *Money Devotional Study*.

While there is adequate group activity included to last for about an hour we know from experience that group discussion can sometimes flow freely. We encourage you to adhere to your normal group timings and to allow adequate time for the prayer request time. This is an important aspect of the Crown study approach as we find that group members are greatly encouraged as they share prayer requests and prayer answers.

Each study includes a few pointers for you as you lead your group if you choose to include an introduction each week. This really is only a guide as your own understanding, life experience and study of the background materials will no doubt provide all that is required for maybe a 5-15 minute group introduction.

Each group member will require (provided you decide to include the activity in your group study):

1. A personal copy of *The Money Devotional* (cost £8.95)
2. An overview of the daily studies (pages 32-33)
3. Memory verses and key quotes for week 1 (page 34)
4. God is at work prayer request – each group member to have one for each group member.

These are all found in the handout at the end

You will need to let them have 1, 2 and 3 a week before the first study.

Insights Into the World's Economy

How does the world's economy work?

I recognise that this is not the place to discuss the many answers to this question. There have been many changes in the world's economy, none perhaps as great as the availability of unsecured credit, or what I sometimes call monopoly or 'phantom' money.

The growth of unsecured credit

In November 1949 Frank McNamara and Alfred Bloomingdale decided to go to lunch, as was their custom, at Major's Cabin Grill in the Empire State Building in New York City. On this occasion no one had any cash to pay for lunch, and perhaps somewhat embarrassed, Frank called his wife who came to the restaurant to settle the account. He determined that he would never again be as embarrassed as he was that day. Some months later in February 1950 he returned to Major's Cabin Grill which was one of 14 restaurants that had agreed to accept payment by a new card which Frank had called the *Diners Club*. In those early days purchases charged to the card were payable shortly after the end of the month with no interest charge. It did not take the banking system long to recognise that here was an income generating activity – give cards away and charge interest on unpaid balances. In the US the rest is history as unsecured lending increased every quarter from 1950 until the third quarter of 2008.

Unsecured credit in the UK

Here in the UK, the founders of the first credit card, The Bank of America, licensed their visa card to Barclays Bank who branded this *Barclaycard* when it was launched in 1966. Subsequent to the launch of this card others followed (e.g. Access which is a MasterCard brand) and these were subsequently followed by store cards. In less than 40 years unsecured lending spiralled and by 2004 total household debt had reached £1 trillion. However this household debt increased by more than 50 per cent in the following four years until in August 2008 household debt exceeded £1.5 trillion.

The deputy governor of the Bank of England reported in 2004 that he was happy with the levels of debt because they were matched by increasing property prices. However, unsecured debt was increasing and by 2008 unsecured household debt, where a household had any unsecured debt, was in excess of £23,000. One reason for this increase is that over the ten years to 2007 Government tax policy had changed away from companies owning cars to individual employees owning cars used for company purposes. As a result of increased tax charges on company cars many employees now

own their own cars. In fact, the number of company-owned cars is reckoned to be less than 10,000 across the country. Another reason is the increase in student debt. In the four years to 2008 the economy was buoyed by an ever-increasing level of unsecured debt and increased levels of secured debt including remortgages on household property as well as increasing stock market values.

In 2008 and 2009 the global economy took a significant downturn and in the UK many issues had to be faced with UK banks receiving unprecedented levels of public financing, interest rates reduced; but none of these actions were sufficient to stave off the inevitable recession. The public's ire was raised when they realised how bankers, who had gone cap in hand to the Government, were with the other hand still claiming large bonuses. And politicians were cast as villains when details of their expenses were leaked to the national press. The level of greed at the heart of our economy was clear for all to see.

While these events occurred a little while ago they serve nevertheless as reminders of the unfairness that exists in society, while some point to the dishonesty those events revealed.

As a leader yourself you will have your own perspective and understanding of how the economy works, but one thing is certain: the events of 2007-2009 showed that the world's economy is very different from God's economy. The good news is that God's economy works every time and always will.

What debt really costs

In the Crown study module four we look at interest charges at varying rates. For example, if you were to save £1,000 a year for 40 years and *if* you were able to secure an average return of three per cent your additional interest would be £36,863. Contrast that with the gain the unsecured lending company makes at 18 per cent – which is in excess of £4 million! Compare that with a store card charging 25 per cent and their return is almost £80 million. No wonder stores want shoppers to use their own store cards.

So much to choose from

Compared to twenty years ago there is so much more to buy, so many goods that we need and an advertising industry that seeks to demonstrate how we should have whatever they have been commissioned to advertise. Marketing propositions vary but maybe the one that resonates with the majority is 'buy this, because you deserve it.' The use of cards and numbers has taken away some of the reality of dealing with cash and facilitated our ability to respond to those marketing propositions. So now we can pay for goods and not have to worry about paying the money back because it can be repaid in small amounts. And so the desires of the flesh can be easily satisfied.

The world's con tricks

It is not surprising that we spend money on goods that we decide we must have with money that we borrow. In so doing we accept the bait from the army of around a million people in the world of marketing whose job it is to make us want to spend. There are now so many commercial TV channels and some are devoted only to shopping. Online commerce is increasing – all facilitated by using cards and numbers as opposed to cash. Those employed in marketing accumulate information about our purchasing habits by analysing how we use our cards or which pages we visit on a website. Some of the marketing messages which they then use to encourage us to buy include:

- Buy now because you deserve it!
- The cost is only £x per month
- Amazing saving – *up to* 40% off
- Buy now; pay later...nothing to pay until 20xx
- Transfer your credit card and enjoy 0% interest
- Buy one and get one free (BOGOF was started by Iceland and is a marketing ploy used by many retailers)
- Four for the price of 3
- You have been selected...
- Cards make buying easier
- Savings of up to...
- Prices from...

Do you recognise some of those?

The intent is the same – to encourage you to spend. Someone once said to me that they could go on spending and keep saving money until they ended up bankrupt!

Saving

Levels of saving have reduced over the last twenty years. During that time savers have seen stock market crashes and interest rates at rock bottom – zero per cent in some cases. We have seen saving institutions deliver results that were much less than expected while some investment funds have been mis-managed. Those who expected a retirement income based on their final salary have found that their pension fund performance is now going to be based on money-purchase and so the return will vary according to investment decisions and prevailing market conditions at the time the retirement funds are required.

Giving levels have reduced

Most people do not give more than small amounts. While there are the highly promoted TV fundraising events and occasional disaster appeals, the reality is that most people give very little to charitable causes. Even in churches that teach their congregations to tithe often less than 25 per cent do so.

How does the world's economy compete with your faith?

I could answer that question on a much wider basis than this guide calls for! Goods and possessions compete with the lordship of Christ in our lives. Many have become conformed to the ways of this world as they allow their walk of faith and the lordship of Christ to take second or even third place in their lives. As debt levels increase we have to earn money to repay the debt or maybe we worry – which is the opposite of trusting. As we give less our lives separate us from acknowledging that everything belongs to Him and that we need, in part, to give in order to give back to God what is His.

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Please register on our website to receive our free newsletters.

Bible Insights

The word Bible means ‘collection of books.’

In the King James version there are:

- 66 books (39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament)
- 1,189 chapters
- 31,173 verses
- 773,692 words

The Bible was written over 1,500 years by 44 authors (their occupations included kings, peasants, philosophers, fishermen and scholars). The Bible was written:

- ...in places as diverse as the wilderness, prison and palaces
- ...on three continents (Asia, Africa and Europe)
- ...in three languages (Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek)

It is a fact that many read the Bible to discover God’s love and comfort, not financial instruction. If we wish to learn about money we may read the weekend press or buy a book on money management or even scour the web for articles and advice on how to increase income; people do not automatically reach for the Bible.

- Why does the Bible devote twice as many verses to money than to faith and prayer combined?
- Why does Jesus say more about money than heaven and hell?
- Why does 7.5% of the Bible refer to financial wisdom and instruction?

The answer is that God knows how money competes with the lordship of Christ in our lives and he desires that we learn and apply His ways. There is compelling evidence that our approach and attitude to our finances is indicative of our walk with the Lord and our true spiritual condition.

The Bible on money, wealth and possessions

More than many studies this one really does trespass in enemy territory. It invades the turf of a powerful adversary, attempting to cross a war zone laced with mines. The Crown *Biblical Financial Study* seeks to show how you can recover territory that rightly belongs to the true King. This study should be judged not in the light of what Crown says, but what the Bible says and what is revealed to you by the Holy Spirit. God’s Word is grain, while ours is straw. His Word is the fire that consumes and the hammer that breaks (Jeremiah 23: 28-29). The best way to align our heart and mind

with God's Word is to systematically study what God has to say. Then as we allow God's Word to penetrate we should respond to His calling and obey. Do you recall that old chorus written by John Sammis in 1887:

When we walk with the Lord
In the light of His Word,
What a glory He sheds on our way!
While we do His good will,
He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.
Trust and obey, for there's no other way
To be happy with Jesus,
But to trust and obey

We know Jesus as Saviour but as Christians we must submit to Him as Lord. The way in which we handle our finances provides a key litmus test to the extent of our submission to Him as Lord.

Do you remember the time when you were young, opened the drawing book and found the dot-to-dot page? As you join the dots you reveal an image you recognise. If you have young children or grandchildren that may be an activity you enjoy, or will enjoy sharing with them. After all you do not require eye coordination or keyboard skills to do a dot-to-dot!

I have discovered that it is only when you study the Bible and bring Scripture together that we see the picture of God's desire and His instruction to us regarding the way we handle our money, wealth and possessions.

We honour God as we make/earn money and in so doing we create the resource from which we are able to engage with the world's economic system. However, it is as we engage with the world's economy that we should follow God's economic principles and values, which as the Crown study reveals has its differences – hardly surprising given the fact that the world's economy does not exist to serve God and His purposes.

An Overview of Each Week's Study

Week 1: Getting started

Please have your group read the following days/sections before *The Money Devotional* house group meets:

- Day 1: How wonderful is our Father's handbook
- Day 2: God's part and our part
- Day 3: Principles and promises
- Day 4: The character of stewardship
- Day 7: Giving materialism a wide berth
- Day 9: Staying honest in all things

Week 2: Work and debt

- Day 11: Counsel
- Day 14: Work – productivity and income
- Day 16: Being content
- Day 17: The stranglehold of debt
- Day 18: When debt may be the way
- Day 19: Becoming debt free – part 1
- Day 20: Becoming debt free – part 2

Week 3: Home and the future

- Day 21: Tough times don't last
- Day 23: Marriage and money
- Day 24: Training our children – part 1
- Day 25: Training our children – part 2
- Day 26: Finances and preparing for retirement
- Day 27: Planning to leave an inheritance

Week 4: Giving and investing

- Day 28: Should you tithe?
- Day 29: Giving
- Day 30: Good news for the poor
- Day 31: Laws of prosperity
- Day 32: Investing principles from Psalm 23
- Day 33: Where to invest – part 1
- Day 34: Where to invest – part 2

Week 5: Planning and eternity

- Day 35: Financial planning
- Day 36: Leaving it all behind
- Day 37: All eyes on eternity
- Day 38: Making it happen – part 1
- Day 39: Making it happen – part 2
- Day 40: Just stretching



week 01

Getting Started

Leader's recommended background study

Read *Your Money Counts* chapters 1-7 or *Money Matters* study week 1 on pages 4 to 15.

The Money Devotional days to study this week are: 1, 2, 3, 4, 7 and 9.

Memory verse

Start with the memory verse or quote: allow each member to recite their memory verse (or quote if they prefer) at the start of the group discussion.

Memory verse options

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart (**Hebrews 4:12**).

Everything in the heavens and on earth is yours, O Lord, and this is your kingdom. We adore you as the one who is over all things. Wealth and honour come from you alone, for you rule over everything. Power and might are in your hand, and at your discretion people are made great and given strength (**1 Chronicles 29:11-12**).

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it (**Psalms 24:1**).

Do not steal. Do not lie. Do not deceive one another (**Leviticus 19:11**).

Key quote options

He who has God and everything has no more than he who has God alone.

C S Lewis

Where riches hold dominion of the heart, God has lost His authority.

John Calvin

God looks at the heart, not the hand – the giver, not the gift.

Group leader activity / introduction

As this is the first week of *The Money Devotional* home group study we seek to bring your group to a place where they are comfortable with the subject matter yet sensitive to learning and sharing together about a topic that not everyone considers to be appropriate for a home group. Please stress that no one will be required to disclose any confidential financial information – in fact we recommend that you should not allow your group to start sharing confidential information. Your background material will provide ample resources for this first introduction. Share your own understanding of biblical finance at the outset – let everyone know you are here as a teachable leader. Is there anything you find it hard to accept that God owns? How does greed impact on us? Maybe you could share a time when God moved in your life in the area of finances.?

Points of interest

Discuss with the group before general discussion:

- The Bible is our manufacturer's handbook, inspired by the Holy Spirit (2 Tim 3:16)
- God owns it all (1 Chronicles 29:11-12, Psalm 24:1 and 1 Corinthians 10:26)
- We are stewards and should be accountable (day 4). There has been many a sermon based on the shrewd manager – this may be a passage from which you may choose to share some biblical truths.
- Where is your treasure? Our possessions? Our work / business? Our family?
- What is it that competes with Christ in our lives? Romans 12:2 tells us that we should be transformed not conformed – how are we conformed to the ways of this world?
- Materialism: we cannot serve two masters (Matthew 6:24).
- Integrity – read the study notes on day 8 and share about the importance of maintaining a high level of integrity – it is a key trait of a believer.

General questions

1. What interested you the most about these first six studies?

2. What did you learn?
3. How does this apply to you?
4. Are we studying the Bible daily? How is our prayer life?
5. How do you feel about God owning everything?
6. How do you feel money affects our character?
7. How does greed reveal itself in our society?
8. How easy is to be honest?
9. Can you recall a time when you were able to resist dishonesty?

Bible reading

Have five people share reading the verses from Proverbs – starting with Proverbs 12:22 (in the margin of page 30) and concluding with the four verses on pages 30-31. (Let's look in Proverbs...)

Next week

We move into some of the core material relating to our finances – our work and debt. Make sure everyone knows the studies they are to read. Encourage them also to study the studies omitted from this five week study – days 12, 13 and 15. Those who are in business in particular should read day 15.

Learn a memory verse from those included in *The Money Devotional* Study.

Closing

Ask each member of the group to share a prayer request. As this is the first week please make sure that each group member has enough prayer records for each other person in the group. Use the prayer request sheets at the end of this file and print out a copy for each group member. Ask everyone to pray for each other every day.



week 02

Work and Debt

Leader recommended background study

Read *Your Money Counts* chapters 8, 9 and 13 or *Money Matters* study week 2 on debt and work study notes on pages 19-36.

The Money Devotional days to study this week are: 11, 14, 16-20.

Memory verse

Start with the memory verse or quote: allow each member to recite their memory verse (or quote if they prefer) at the start of the group discussion.

Memory verse options

The way of a fool seems right, but a wise man listens to advice (Proverbs 12:15).

Just as the rich rule the poor, so the borrower is servant to the lender (Proverbs 22:7).

The wicked borrows and does not repay, but the righteous shows mercy and gives (Psalm 37:21).

Key quote options

He who labours as he prays lifts his heart to God with his hands

St Bernard of Clairvaux

When love and skill work together, expect a masterpiece

John Ruskin

Never spend your money before you have it

Thomas Jefferson

God opposes usury and greed, yet no one realises this because it is not simple murder and robbery.

Martin Luther

Group leader activity / introduction

Four major topics which could easily be the subject of four meetings – probably more – we look at counsel, work, contentment and debt. Prepare yourself for some lively discussion – and be sensitive to those who do not have work or are in debt. Has your church leader consented to you giving counsel should you become aware that counsel is required? This may arise if someone is unemployed or troubled by debt. It is important not to stray outside your remit as a home group leader – this is one of those studies where it is important to connect the group member to others with training if necessary to ensure they receive good godly counsel. It is important to remember not to allow people to dominate the discussion by sharing lots of problems. If you sense that this is happening suggest that “this is getting into giving advice, which we need to do outside the group.”

Points of interest:

- Counsel – the world makes ungodly counsel seem so normal – horoscopes, “reading the stars”. What sign are you born under? There is only one – the star of David. Did you find the list of biblical sources of counsel interesting?
- Work – those who are in business have invested their capital, time and all their endeavours in building the business, but it all belongs to God. Business can consume – and not just those who are in business. For those who are, the business needs to redeem time as well as profits. Encourage those who are in business to read day 15 if they have not already done so.
- Debt – did you know that over 40 years an individual saving £1000 a year would earn interest of about £58,000 at a rate of 4%. Yet if that same £1000 was paid to a credit card company (that assumes a level debt of £5560 and an interest rate of 18%) the credit card company would earn over £4 million (at a rate of 18% this would be £4,497,902). Surely those who owe so much are slaves to debt and Christ came to set us free. (It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery Galatians 5:1). Stay clear of debt CONSolidation.
- Like weight, debt also takes time to shed. Look at the Crown snowball app on www.crownuk.org. Registration is required to access this area of the Crownuk site.

General open questions

1. What did you learn?
2. How might you apply what you have learned?
3. How do you see your faith aligned to your workplace?
4. Who is ambitious? What are those ambitions?
5. How does knowing you work for God impact your approach to work? To your employer? To your employees?
6. What makes us discontent?
7. With the country and individuals in debt – how do you feel about what we have read in the two debt studies?
8. How does debt impact you personally?
9. How many have a financial roadmap? If you do – how does this help?

Bible reading

Either select the days for reading or read all the Bible verses in the margins starting at day 16 through to day 20.

Next week

- We will continue with our *Money Devotional Study* looking at home and the future. Encourage everyone
- Learn a memory verse from those included on *The Money Devotional Study*.

Closing

Ask each member of the group to share a prayer request. Use the prayer request sheets at the end of this file and print out a copy for each group member. Ask everyone to pray for each other every day.



week 03

Home and the Future

Leader's recommended background study

Read *Your Money Counts* chapters 10, 11 and 15 or *Money Matters* pages 46-51 and 62-68.

The Money Devotional days to study this week are: 21, 23-27.

Memory verse

Start with the memory verse or quote: allow each member to recite their memory verse (or quote if they prefer) at the start of the group discussion.

Memory verse options

Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it (Proverbs 22:6).

Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4).

A good man leaves an inheritance for his children's children, but a sinner's wealth is stored up for the righteous (Proverbs 13:22).

Key quote options

Tough times don't last, but people do.

Plan ahead – it wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.

A child who is allowed to be disrespectful to his parents will not have true respect for anyone.

Billy Graham

Death isn't your best opportunity to give – it's the end of your opportunity to give. God rewards acts of faith done while we're still living.

Randy Alcorn

Group leader activity / introduction

The first day's study is intended to encourage those who could identify with the four topics of last week. Maybe some in the group are sensitive about their situation – pray for them. Do they need counsel (refer to church leadership)? Tough times do pass although for those that are going through them, this does not always appear as a reality. However, it is at those times that we need to reach out and apply our faith. As we call out to God, we have His assurance that he loves us. Maybe we do not always understand but we do know that one day the canvas of our lives will be revealed to Him – let's encourage one another to paint a masterpiece as we are all a trophy of His grace.

For couples, 'doing finance' together is important even though often one spouse tends to take the lead. Share openly and encourage the one who might be weaker when it comes to the finances.

General open questions

1. What interested you the most about these studies?
2. What did you learn?
3. How does this apply to you?
4. Can you describe a 'tough time' you have gone through? What role did your faith play in coming through? What lessons did you learn?
5. How should couples work together to manage their finances?
6. What strategies do you use for managing money? Not using credit cards for longer than one month; using a cash envelope to manage items in the budget (when the cash in the envelope has been used – there is no more to be spent on this category of expenditure until the beginning of the next budget period). Discuss actual expenditure at the end of each week / month? Joint accounts?
7. What money training can you give your children?
 - » Do you teach them to give?
 - » Do you teach them to save?

- » Do you teach them to budget?
 - » Do they save for birthday / Christmas or holiday spending money?
 - » What does a next step look like if you think you need to take one?
8. How do you view retirement?
 9. What opportunities does retirement offer?
 10. What does the Bible say about leaving an inheritance?
 11. What steps could you take to ensure that an inheritance does not prove to be destructive?

Bible reading

Share reading all the Bible verses in the margins starting at day 24 through to day 27.

Next week

- We continue with our *Money Devotional Study* looking at giving and investing. Please study the verses on giving set out on pages 93 and 97.
- Learn a memory verse from those included on *The Money Devotional Study*.
- Encourage group members to sign up for the *Biblical Financial Study* course. Announce start day for the launch meeting (see *Launch and Lead* from Crown Financial Ministries)

Closing

Ask each member for feedback on any prayer testimonies and to share prayer requests for the week. Remind everyone to pray for each group member.

Key recommend

We recommend that you show home group members the *Practical Application Workbook*.



week 04

Giving and Investing

Leader recommended background study

Read *Your Money Counts* chapters 12 and 14 or *Money Matters* pages 40-46 and 56-61.

The Money Devotional days to study this week are: 28-34.

Memory verse

Start with the memory verse or quote: allow each member to recite their memory verse (or quote if they prefer) at the start of the group discussion.

Bible verse options

He who gives to the poor will lack nothing, but he who closes his eyes to them receives many curses (Proverbs 28:27).

The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside still waters (Psalm 23:1).

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also (Luke 12:34).

Key quote options

How different our standard is from Christ's. We ask how much a man gives. Christ asks how much he keeps.

Hudson Taylor

I never would have been able to tithe the first million I ever made if I had not tithed on my first salary which was about \$1.50 a week.

JD Rockefeller

Giving 10 per cent isn't the ceiling of giving; it's the floor. It's not the finish line; it's just the starting block.

You're never more like Jesus than when you are giving

Pastor Johnny Hunt, First Baptist, Woodstock, Atlanta.

Group leader activity / introduction

In many regards giving is not necessarily natural – small amounts and Christmas and birthday presents do tend to come naturally, but giving 10% – that takes a heart commitment. I have found that even in those churches that consistently teach faith and giving, the average number of those who tithe (using an average income approach) is less than 25% of members.

It is good to give to Christian causes as there are only a million (or so) Christians who normally give whereas other charities can call on the 62 million UK residents.

What is the balance between giving and investing? The importance of having an emergency budget so that when unexpected costs arise they do not derail our finances and take us into debt. Types of investment. Important note: Crown does not wish the group to discuss specific investments and no one should use the group study to sell or recommend any investment or service.

General open questions

1. What interested you the most about this week's studies?
2. What did you learn?
3. How does this apply to you?
4. What did you learn about tithing?
5. How do days 28 and 29 change the way you see giving and our responsibilities?
6. How should we plan our giving? (We plan our other expenses – how do we plan our giving?)
7. Do we have any responsibility toward the poor?
8. How can we help the poor?
9. Which law [of prosperity] did you find most interesting?
10. Which investment fund(s) did you find of most interest?

Bible reading

Have group members read the verses from day 32 (starting Psalm 23:1-2 – in the margin of page 105) and concluding with Proverbs 24:27 on page 114.

Next week

- We move onto our final week of the core material relating to our finances – our planning and eternity. Make sure everyone knows the studies they are to read (35-40).
- Learn a memory verse from those included on *The Money Devotional Study*
- Remind group members about signing up for the *Biblical Financial Study* course. Announce start day for the launch meeting (see *Launch and Lead* from Crown Financial Ministries)

Closing

Ask each member of the group to share a prayer request. Use the prayer request sheets at the end of this file and print out a copy for each group member. Ask everyone to pray for each other every day.



week 05

Planning and Eternity

Leader's recommended background study

Read *Your Money Counts* chapters 16-19 or *Money Matters* study pages 73-88.

The Money Devotional days to study this week are: 35-40.

Memory verse

Start with the memory verse or quote: allow each member to recite their memory verse (or quote if they prefer) at the start of the group discussion.

Memory verse options

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future (Jeremiah 29:11).

For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? (Mark 8:36).

Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord, the Lord, is the rock eternal (Isaiah 26:4).

Key quote options

I judge all things by the price they shall gain in eternity

John Wesley

You'll not get to heaven and hear God say you should have given less.

God has given us two hands, one to receive and the other to give

Group leader activity / introduction

This is the last week's study based on *The Money Devotional* and each of the studies move towards allowing group members to look at what they have learned and how they are applying what they have planned to do differently.

Most of us live on this earth for less than 80 years – how much of your life has already elapsed? What do you think you should plan to do differently in the future?

General open questions

- What interested you the most about these last six studies?
- What did you learn?
- How does this apply to you?
- Have group members revisited their budgets? Are these in balance or do they need to make changes?
- Have they looked at planning to increase their giving?
- Do our finances align with someone who is seeking the Kingdom of Heaven?
- Is your faith making a difference about how you handle money?
- Have you revisited your savings plan?
- Is your Will up to date?

Bible reading

Starting with Proverbs 21: 5 (day 38); read the 8 margin verses to the end of day 40 concluding with Romans 12:2. How have we conformed to the ways of the world? What does it mean to be transformed by the renewing of your mind?

Biblical Financial Study course

Remind group members about signing up for the *Biblical Financial Study* course. Announce start day for the launch meeting (see *Launch and Lead* from Crown Financial Ministries.)

The appendix

The Money Devotional includes a record of the 2350 verses in the Bible on how we handle money, wealth and possessions. Are there any sections that you would like to encourage group members to self study?

Other Crown studies

We have referred to the *Biblical Financial Study* – Crown also has studies for children, teens and business owners.

Closing

Ask each member of the group to share a prayer request. Use the prayer request sheets at the end of this file and print out a copy for each group member. Ask everyone to continue to pray for one another every day.

Thank everyone for attending and their diligence in their studies and their participation.

An Overview of the Studies

Each week we would ask you to read each of the studies listed below:

Week 1: Getting started

- Day 1: How wonderful is our Father's handbook
- Day 2: God's part and our part
- Day 3: Principles and promises
- Day 4: The character of stewardship
- Day 7: Giving materialism a wide berth
- Day 9: Staying honest in all things

Week 2: Work and debt

- Day 11: Counsel
- Day 14: Work – productivity and income
- Day 16: Being content
- Day 17: The stranglehold of debt
- Day 18: When debt may be the way
- Day 19: Becoming debt free – part 1
- Day 20: Becoming debt free – part 2

Week 3: Home and the future

- Day 21: Tough times don't last
- Day 23: Marriage and money
- Day 24: Training our children – part 1
- Day 25: Training our children – part 2
- Day 26: Finances and preparing for retirement
- Day 27: Planning to leave an inheritance

Week 4: Giving and investing

- Day 28: Should you tithe?
- Day 29: Giving
- Day 30: Good news for the poor
- Day 31: Laws of prosperity
- Day 32: Investing principles from Psalm 23
- Day 33: Where to invest – part 1
- Day 34: Where to invest – part 2

Week 5: Planning and eternity

- Day 35: Financial planning
- Day 36: Leaving it all behind
- Day 37: All eyes on eternity
- Day 38: Making it happen – part 1
- Day 39: Making it happen – part 2
- Day 40: Just stretching

Memory Verses and Key Quotes

As part of your study each week we would like to ask you to learn a verse, or alternatively maybe for one or two weeks a key quote. These are included in the margins of *The Money Devotional* and for ease of reference are listed for each week:

Week 1: Getting Started

Memory verse options

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart **(Hebrews 4:12)**.

Everything in the heavens and on earth is yours, O Lord, and this is your kingdom. We adore you as the one who is over all things. Wealth and honour come from you alone, for you rule over everything. Power and might are in your hand, and at your discretion people are made great and given strength **(1 Chronicles 29:11-12)**.

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it **(Psalm 24:1)**.

Do not steal. Do not lie. Do not deceive one another **(Leviticus 19:11)**.

Key quote options

He who has God and everything has no more than he who has God alone.

C S Lewis

Where riches hold dominion of the heart, God has lost His authority.

John Calvin

God looks at the heart, not the hand – the giver, not the gift.

Week 2: Work and Debt

Memory verse options

The way of a fool seems right, but a wise man listens to advice (Proverbs 12:15).

Just as the rich rule the poor, so the borrower is servant to the lender (Proverbs 22:7).

The wicked borrows and does not repay, but the righteous shows mercy and gives (Psalm 37:21).

Week 2: Key quote options

He who labours as he prays lifts his heart to God with his hands.

St Bernard of Clairvaux

When love and skill work together, expect a masterpiece.

John Ruskin

Never spend your money before you have it.

Thomas Jefferson

God opposes usury and greed, yet no one realises this because it is not simple murder and robbery.

Martin Luther

Week 3: Home and the Future

Memory verse options

Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it (Proverbs 22:6).

.....

Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4).

.....

A good man leaves an inheritance for his children's children, but a sinner's wealth is stored up for the righteous (Proverbs 13:22).

.....

Key quote options

Tough times don't last, but people do.

.....

Plan ahead – it wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.

.....

A child who is allowed to be disrespectful to his parents will not have true respect for anyone.

Billy Graham

.....

Death isn't your best opportunity to give, it's the end of your opportunity to give. God rewards acts of faith done while we're still living.

Randy Alcorn

.....

Week 4: Giving and Investing

Bible verse options

He who gives to the poor will lack nothing, but he who closes his eyes to them receives many curses (Proverbs 28:27).

The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside still waters (Psalm 23:1).

For where your heart is, there your heart will be also (Luke 12:34).

Key quote options

How different our standard is from Christ's. We ask how much a man gives. Christ asks how much he keeps.

Hudson Taylor

I never would have been able to tithe the first million I ever made if I had not tithed on my first salary which was about \$1.50 a week.

J D Rockefeller

Giving 10 per cent isn't the ceiling of giving; it's the floor. It's not the finish line; it's just the starting blocks.

You're never more like Jesus than when you are giving

Pastor Johnny Hunt, First Baptist, Woodstock, Atlanta.

Week 5: Planning and Eternity

Memory verse options

For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future (Jeremiah 29:11).

.....

*For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?
(Mark 8:36).*

.....

Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord, the Lord, is the Rock eternal (Isaiah 26:4).

.....

Key quote options

I judge all things by the price they shall gain in eternity

John Wesley

.....

You'll not get to heaven and hear God say you should have given less.

.....

God has given us two hands, one to receive and the other to give

.....

“Pray for one another” James 5:16

Name	Spouse
Home phone	
Business phone	
Mobile	Children (ages)
Email	
Address	

Week	Prayer request(s)	Answers to prayer
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

Register on www.crownuk.org for our e newsletter.

Crown's Study Resources

Crown has a range of study resources that are intended for use in the home and Church:

Biblical Financial Study

This is our primary resource for adults to learn together what the Bible has to say about how we handle our money and possessions. The study covers nine essential areas that affect our attitude and handling of money, including such issues as debt, giving and saving. *Launch and Lead* and the accompanying four-part training DVD highlight everything you need to know about how to introduce and lead Crown in your Church.

Children and Teen Study-Stories

With children having no shortage of spending options it is essential to train them to handle money before they succumb to spending beyond their means and falling into debt.

Proverbs 22:6 instructs that a child should be trained “in the way he should go, and when he is old [e.g. and responsible for managing money] he will not turn from it.”

By the time children leave university many will have accumulated debt which may not be repaid until they are in their 40s. The next verse in Proverbs (22:7) tells us that “the borrower is slave to the lender.” Teaching children how to handle money is a number one priority. Make sure your children don't head down the same path trod by those who are in a debt-trap.

Give Save Spend – for those 7 and under

Give, Save, Spend introduces children to what the Bible has to say about how we handle our money. Children discover these truths as Alfie, Amy, Jack and Lebo try to save enough money to buy a puppy. As they find out how to earn, save, give and spend they also learn some important things about God. This book also has an accompanying parent/teacher guide with additional questions, activities, worksheets and a teaching plan for each lesson.

The Secret – for those 8 to 12

Follow the story of Nathan, Rosie, Luke and Bethany as they try to save enough money to go on a school trip to the Welsh mountains. Helping them along their journey, they will learn from David and Goliath, Elisha and the widow and her oil, King Solomon, Daniel, Nehemiah and Joseph. This book also has an accompanying parent/teacher guide which includes additional home or children's Church resources.

Finance and the Future

A study for teens that will help them to enjoy life without becoming slaves to debt.

Business by the Book Home group study

Designed for business owners and managers the *Business by the Book* Home group study teaches how the Bible can help you succeed in the business world. This six-week study contains solid scriptural teaching and thought-provoking case studies.

Resources for the Home

Your Money Counts

A 166 page book that introduces a step-by-step approach to discovering biblical financial freedom.

Money Matters

This is a personal five-week study that includes five days of interactive Bible reading and two days of study reading. This study covers the same material that is included in the small group *Biblical Financial Study*.

Practical Application Workbook

This workbook will help you practically master your money. Use this workbook to develop a balanced spending budget, work your way out of debt and create a financial plan that works. This workbook can be used alongside the five week *Money Matters* study.

The Money Devotional

A 40-day devotional study covering spiritual and practical topics including: where is your treasure; tough times don't last; the poor; laws of prosperity; giving; materialism and many more topics that aren't covered in our other studies.

Children's Study-Stories

Give, Save, Spend, The Secret and *Finance for the Future Teens* are all designed so they can be used in the home.

The Learning Bank

This savings bank has three compartments: Give, Save and Spend. Your children will learn how to budget and plan their finances. Start teaching children from an early age and they will learn the essence of balancing giving, saving and spending. The *Money Bank* is a Proverbs 22:6 resource that enables you “*to train your child in the way he [or she] should go.*”

Resources for the Business Owners

Business by the Book Study

Are you in business or a business manager? If so then this six-week DVD-study is an invaluable guide to learning what the Bible has to say about managing and growing a business. This study teaches businesspeople in all walks of life how to conduct business according to biblical principles. The six main topics include – having purpose in business; business planning; the importance of servant-based leadership; making good financial decisions; effectively managing employees and staff; the role of organisation and marketing. This study may also be used in a small group setting.

