

GROUPS DISCUSSION GUIDE

Get Into The Word



Week of Sunday December 21, 2025

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**Living out our God-given calling as
we follow Jesus and make
disciples every day.**

Introduction

Many seek the pathway to a fulfilling life, hoping that accumulating wealth and power will lead them there. The story of the rich young ruler in Matthew 19 challenges this notion, prompting us to evaluate what truly possesses our hearts. Although he had wealth and status, his encounter with Jesus revealed a deeper spiritual need. This invites us to explore what may be holding us back from fully embracing eternal life now, examining how our earthly treasures might overshadow our relationship with God and hinder the Kingdom life today.

Disciple Measure

Spirit-led Follower: Who or what has the majority of your thoughts and attention?

This image shows a full page of dot grid paper. The background is white, and it is covered with a regular pattern of small, dark grey dots. The dots are arranged in straight horizontal and vertical rows, creating a grid-like appearance. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.

HIGHLIGHT

Matthew 19:16-22

Discuss the following questions...

1. How does the story of the Rich Young Ruler illustrate the challenges of wealth in relation to spiritual growth and entry into the Kingdom of Heaven?
2. What does Jesus's response to the Rich Young Ruler tell us about the nature of eternal life and how it should influence our lives today?
3. In what ways does the encounter with the Rich Young Ruler highlight the tension between following commandments and having a genuine relationship with God?
4. Why do you think Jesus emphasized the commandments related to the young man's relationships with others but omitted those related to his relationship with God?

Notes:

Discuss the following questions...

1. How might the pursuit of wealth and possessions distract from or hinder a true relationship with God, and what steps can individuals take to ensure that their possessions do not possess them?
2. What practical steps can someone take to cultivate a mindset of generosity and detach from material possessions in their daily life?
3. In what ways can we integrate the idea of eternal life beginning now into our everyday interactions and decisions?

How can we encourage others to examine their priorities and ensure that their devotion to God takes precedence over worldly achievements?

1. That God would reveal any "idols" we're holding onto.
2. For the courage to release our grip on whatever is holding us back from fully following Jesus.
3. That we would experience the freedom and treasure of Kingdom living today.
4. For a heart that treasures Jesus above all else.

Questions for Families

Here are some questions you can discuss with the whole family.

Matthew 19:16-22

What do you think this story tells us about what God wants us to treasure the most? *Guide younger children by explaining that God values love and kindness over things like money and toys. For older kids, discuss how God wants our hearts and love more than our possessions.*

How do you feel when you think about your favorite things? Do you think it's okay to love things, or should we love people more? *Guide younger children by highlighting how people, like family and friends, are more important than objects. With older children, discuss the importance of prioritizing relationships and values over material possessions.*

If you had to give away something special to help someone else, what would it be, and how would that make you feel? *Encourage younger children to think about sharing their toys or snacks. With older children, explore the idea of sacrifice and how helping others can bring happiness and fulfillment, even if it means giving up something.*

NT 260

WEEK: 52

- Matthew 24
- Matthew 25
- Matthew 26
- Matthew 27
- Matthew 28

MEMORY VERSE: Matthew 7:28-29

Resources

Additional Resources

The Bible Project - Wealth and Worry



Discover what Jesus teaches in key Bible verses about [wealth](#) and possessions in the Sermon on the Mount.
(7 min)

Resources to Watch

Bible Project Guide - The Book of Matthew



See a collection of videos and articles to guide you through the book of [Matthew](#).
(20 min)

Life Group Resources

We have a variety of resources and are continually adding new ones. Some of our resources include group launch guides, on-demand training modules, and curriculum resources. To request a resource, reach out to us at groups@longhollow.com.

D-Group Resources

If you or someone you know would like to start a D-group, we have everything you need, including reading plans, journals, and a launch guide to walk you through the first four meetings.



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Commentary

Notes:

What’s Going On?

The story of the Rich Young Ruler is found in Matthew 19:16-22. This passage takes place during Jesus's ministry as He traveled and taught people about God’s kingdom. The encounter is straightforward and personal. A man approaches Jesus with a sincere question about how to gain eternal life, a big question then and now. This passage starts with a man asking, “Teacher, what good must I do to have eternal life?”

Jesus's response seems simple: keep the commandments. But when the man confirms he's done that, Jesus raises the bar. He tells the young man to sell all his possessions and give to the poor. The man’s reaction of sadness and walking away highlights a theme Jesus often spoke about: the challenge of wealth. It’s not just about obeying rules; it's about where our hearts truly are. This passage is part of Matthew’s narrative style where he highlights Jesus’s teachings on the kingdom of heaven and the costs and rewards of being a true disciple.

Biblical Timeline



A Bit of Background

In the time of Jesus, being rich, young, and a ruler was a big deal. It meant the young man who approached Jesus had wealth, probably inherited, and had a position of authority or influence. Wealth was often seen as a sign of God’s blessing, so people might have thought this man was already favored by God. However, Jesus often flipped societal norms and expectations upside down. During this period, Jewish society followed the law of Moses closely, with commandments that guided their lives. The man believed he was adhering to these commandments, and likely expected confirmation that he was on the right path.

However, Jesus challenged the conventional view of wealth by suggesting that it could be a hindrance to fully experiencing God’s kingdom. This was radical at the time because Jewish culture didn’t commonly view wealth as a problem. The historical context shows us that Jesus came to bring a new understanding of what it means to be part of God’s kingdom. Jesus emphasized that it’s not about external wealth or status, but about the heart’s devotion. This encounter with the rich young ruler shows how Jesus taught that true treasure is found not in possessions, but in a wholehearted commitment to God.

Notes:



Today’s highlighted passage and other related passages

Sermon Notes

Matthew 19:16-22 CSB

Just then someone came up and asked him, “Teacher, what good must I do to have eternal life?” “Why do you ask me about what is good?” he said to him. “There is only one who is good. If you want to enter into life, keep the commandments.” “Which ones?” he asked him. Jesus answered: Do not murder; do not commit adultery; do not steal; do not bear false witness; honor your father and your mother; and love your neighbor as yourself. , “I have kept all these,” the young man told him. “What do I still lack?” “If you want to be perfect,” Jesus said to him, “go, sell your belongings and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” When the young man heard that, he went away grieving, because he had many possessions.

(Get digital notes on your mobile device at notes.longhollow.com)

Living out our God-given calling as we follow Jesus and make disciples every day.

Spirit-Led Follower

A disciple who walks with Jesus daily, anchoring their lives to God's Word and obediently following the Holy Spirit where He leads.

Intentional Friend

A disciple who is always looking for ways to care for others and meet their needs. This is a practical way to be present in the lives of those around us.

Humble Guide

A disciple who is a humble guide takes every opportunity to help people take their next step closer to Jesus. This is someone who is constantly looking for opportunities to have Gospel conversations and speak truth into someone's life.

Force For Good

When a disciple lives out their God-given calling, they naturally become a force for good where they live, work, and play. This type of person is looking for opportunities to meet needs, heal brokenness, and bring tangible hope to the people in their life and in their community.



LONG HOLLOW
CHURCH