

KINGDOM NOMICS ✨

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week 1

These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family, and/or with a group or Bible class.

Jesus talked about money more than any other subject except the kingdom of God. Disciples are called to reshape their values and realign their priorities to embody the economic principles of another kingdom. We are called to practice kingdomnomics.

1 Read **Matthew 6:24**. Why does Jesus talk so much about money? Why is our relationship to money a kingdom issue?

2 KINGDOMNOMICS 101: *God owns all!* God claims that He has a claim on everything (see **Psalm 24:1, Deuteronomy 10:14 and Psalm 50:9-12**). Stewardship begins with resolving the question of ownership. Why is this a top-button issue?

3 KINGDOMNOMICS 101: *We are not self-sufficient beings.* Read **Deuteronomy 8:17-18**. The Bible rejects the notion that we can exist independent of God's benevolence. What happens when we affirm this truth, and what happens when we don't?

4 You will never be free from worry until you believe in a God who is able to provide for His children out of His abundance and goodness. In what ways are struggles like worry and envy really a struggle with the idea that "God owns all"?

5 KINGDOMNOMICS 101: *We should not resent or resist what God wants to do with what's His.* Kingdom people understand that God blesses their work

so that they can bless the work of God in the world (see **2 Corinthians 9:11**). How should this affect our attitude about generosity?

6 KINGDOMNOMICS 101: *We do not give to God as much as we return to God.* What are some of the implications of this truth?

7 Read **Malachi 3:6-12**. Tithing is never treated in scripture as an act of generosity, but as an act of obedience. That is why the Bible never says *give the tithe*; it says *bring the tithe*, because the tithe *belongs to the Lord*. Why do so many people struggle with the idea of tithing?

8 DISCIPLESHIP 101: *Jesus owns me!* Discipleship begins with the truth that Jesus owns me. What are some of the implications of this truth (see **Luke 14:33**)?

ACTION STEP Stewardship (God owns all) is really all about Discipleship (Jesus owns me). Jesus' mission was not to make money; it was to make disciples (Matthew 28:18-20) and that begins when we surrender (when we "give up"). Surrender is not when we give up something, but when we give up everything. Reflect on this question each day this week: How deeply has the truth that God owns all penetrated your heart? What is one thing you can do to put this truth into practice this week?

KINGDOM NOMICS ✨

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS — Week 2 —

These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family and/or with a group or Bible class.

Jesus talked a lot about money, not because he wanted money, but because he wanted disciples. And Kingdomnomics is a required course in the school of discipleship. When we manage what we've been entrusted with for the sake of the mission of God it's not only a wonderful way to truly live but a powerful vaccine against greed.

1 Read **Luke 12:15**. Jesus says life is not measured by what one owns, but it seems like that is the main way the world measures life. How do we guard against the pressure to do the same?

2 **KINGDOMNOMICS 201: Manage God's "trust fund."** Stewardship is the first command in the Bible (see **Genesis 1:28**). We are to actively and responsibly manage God's creation for God's purposes. We are God's stewards, managing what He has loaned to us. How does it change our thinking when we see ourselves as entrusted rather than entitled?

3 **STEWARD EVERYTHING!** Read **Matthew 25:31-46**. With this parable in mind along with the example of the rich fool in Luke 12 and the rich man in Luke 16 talk about the implications of this statement: "My use of money will not get me into heaven; but my use of money can keep me out of heaven." What can we learn from these parables?

4 **My use of money can put treasure in heaven.**

The wise and the foolish both die, but the fool leaves everything behind in a barn. Read **Matthew 6:19-21**. What are some tangible ways that we can put our treasure in heaven? Was Jesus appealing to our self-interest when he encouraged us to do so?

5 Read **1 Timothy 6:17-19**. Why is it dangerous to put our hope in wealth and why is it better to put our hope in God? What is this text saying about true life?

6 Read **Matthew 19:28-29**. Our gospel is not about escaping the world; it is about joining the mission of God in renewing the world. **The way we use money can bring heaven to earth.** Do you agree with that statement? Why or why not?

ACTION STEP *The Bible ends with "I am making everything new," and as a church of stewards we witness to that coming reality. We are not just marching into heaven, but we are managing God's trust fund so that we can march into the world and give the nations a taste of heaven. That is what **Harvest Weekend** is all about. Take a look at the website harvestweekend.org and pick one ministry supported by Harvest (spend the week really learning more about it). Pray daily for the people we support there and for how you will contribute to help us reach our goal of \$2,042,288 next weekend.*

KINGDOM NOMICS ✨

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week 3

These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family and/or with a group or Bible class.

The reason churches should talk about money is because Jesus did. The reason Jesus talked about money is because he wants our hearts and our hearts go wherever we put our treasure. You can follow the money to discern who is serious about following Jesus.

1 KINGDOMNOMICS 301: Stewardship needs constant intention. “No one drifts into stewardship.” Why is that so? What factors in our culture make intention critical to faithful stewardship?

2 SO DO SOMETHING...to get out of financial bondage. Debt as a lifestyle hinders one’s capacity to live fully in the kingdom of God. **Read Proverbs 21:5 & 22:7.** How should Christians feel about indebtedness? When might it be appropriate, and what are the assumptions and dangers that come with debt that might be toxic to faith?

3 SO DO SOMETHING...to protect your heart from “money lies.” Jesus knew that nothing has the potential to become a god-substitute like money. **Read 1 Timothy 6:6-10.** What is the lure of desiring to be rich, and what are some of the biggest lies that money promises but does not deliver?

4 SO DO SOMETHING...to support the mission of your church. Rick mentioned that he has always stewarded his finances by two convictions: *I should give first to my local church, and my gift to my church should at least be a tithe.* **Read 1 Corinthians 9:14; Galatians 6:6; and 1 Timothy 5:17.** What place should supporting one’s church family have in prioritizing one’s giving? Why?

5 SO DO SOMETHING...to model the joy of generosity to others. One reason God loves cheerful giving is because it spreads cheer to others. **Read 2 Corinthians 8:7.** Share a testimony with your group of a “giving warrior” you have known. Why do you think they could give so cheerfully?

6 SO DO SOMETHING...to teach your kids about God and money. Do not pass chains on to your children. **Read Ephesians 6:4.** What are the most important things to tell our kids about money? What are the most important things to tell our heirs about our estate?

7 SO DO SOMETHING...to ensure that your “barn” honors God when you die. Your stewardship decisions, whether wise or foolish, will outlive you. **Read Luke 12:20.** Will what God has loaned to you honor Him after you die?

8 SO DO SOMETHING...to witness to the absurdity of grace. God made the first move in generosity. **Read 2 Corinthians 8:9.** Christianity is founded on an act of absurd generosity. How should that truth impact our stewardship?

KINGDOM NOMICS ✨

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week 4

These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family and/or with a group or Bible class.

Thanksgiving and generosity should not be shocking in a church full of KINGDOMNOMICS graduates. They know how to own nothing, steward everything, do something, and appreciate anything.

1 You are *as rich as you thank!* Read **Romans 1:21-23, Ephesians 5:20, Colossians 3:17, and Philippians 4:6**. If being mindful that God owns all is the foundation of good stewardship, then being grateful for what He has loaned us is the roof. Why does the NT put such an emphasis on thanksgiving? What are the consequences of a life of ingratitude?

2 We aren't as fluent in thanksgiving as we need to be because we don't think we are as wealthy as we ought to be. Why do most Christians in our culture struggle to admit they are rich?

3 THANKSGIVING... *decreases entitlement*. Read **1 Timothy 6:6-8 and Philippians 4:11**. Why is an entitlement spirit dangerous? What can disciples do to "learn to be content"?

4 THANKSGIVING... *increases enjoyment*. Like any good parent God enjoys it when we enjoy His abundance. Read **1 Timothy 4:4 and 6:17**. Why does God want us to enjoy our blessings? Why is it important to enjoy what we have instead of wishing for what we don't have?

5 THANKSGIVING... *produces engagement*. Since we are rich, we need to intend to be "good and rich." Read **1 Timothy 6:18 and 2 Corinthians 9:11**. Wealth can be a danger, but it can also be a blessing. What do these verses teach us about being "good and rich"?

6 KINGDOMNOMICS grads are always *thanking about Jesus!* The gospel teaches me to think and thank differently. Read **2 Corinthians 9:15**. Stewardship is ultimately a gospel issue. How does making Jesus our treasure impact the rest of our treasure?

ACTION STEP Reflect on the key principles from this series... 101: God owns all! 201: Manage God's "trust fund" 301: Stewardship needs constant intention and 401: You are as rich as you thank! Talk about how this series has impacted the way you think about discipleship and stewardship. What is one thing you and your family plan to do as a result of what you've learned?