



This guide will help you facilitate a study of the Bible passage with a focus on applying God's truth to our lives together. Look at the Big Idea and Takeaway for our CGs sections at the beginning of the guide to keep the discussion focused. For a deeper dive into the passage, refer to the [text notes](#) on the passage.

Overview

Context of Luke

Luke the Greek physician was Paul's companion during his mission in proclaiming the gospel. Luke wrote this gospel as the first volume of a single work, consisting of The Gospel Of Luke and Acts. Both volumes are addressed to Theophilus and are written in a similar style. The Book of Acts refers to The Gospel Of Luke in its introduction. As a Greek and later a companion of Paul, Luke had never met Jesus personally, yet as a scholar and physician, he set upon the task to interview and record the events of the life of Jesus, according to Jesus' close companions and earliest eyewitnesses (1:1-4). Luke's gospel is, therefore, the most detailed, and it contains the most material of the three synoptic gospels.

Luke 16:1-15

*He also said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was wasting his possessions. 2 And he called him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Turn in the account of your management, for you can no longer be manager.' 3 And the manager said to himself, 'What shall I do, since my master is taking the management away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. 4 I have decided what to do, so that when I am removed from management, people may receive me into their houses.' 5 So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he said to the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' 6 He said, 'A hundred measures of oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.' 7 Then he said to another, 'And how much do you owe?' He said, 'A hundred measures of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, and write eighty.' 8 **The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light.** 9 **And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings.***

10 "One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. 11 If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? 12 And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? 13 No servant can serve two masters, for 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 God and money."

14 The Pharisees, who were lovers of money, heard all these things, and they ridiculed him. 15 And he said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God."

Our Fallen Condition

A worldly and temporal perspective that only focuses on the here and now, and therefore loves, hoards and stewards one's wealth only for oneself. And/or not recognising the temporal and earthly nature of money.

Big Idea of the Text

Disciples of Jesus demonstrate their love for God by stewarding their wealth with wisdom, faithfulness and generosity with the eternal perspective in mind.

Takeaway for our CGs

To allow God's word to search our hearts about whether our stewardship of resources reflects a love more towards God or towards money, and to concretely grow in faithful stewardship.

Study Guide Suggested Answers

1. Shrewd: What does “shrewd” mean in this context? (Ref Luke 12:42, Matthew 25:2-9) In what way was the dishonest manager shrewd?
2. “Sons of this world” vs. “sons of light”: Who are they?
3. What does “unrighteous wealth” refer to, based on v13?
4. “Unrighteous wealth”: Jesus seems to contrast two types of wealth in v9-13: unrighteous wealth and true riches. What are the contrasting characteristics of these two types of wealth?
5. Do we think about our money in terms of these characteristics? If not, how do we think about it? How might it change the way that we use the money God has given to us if we believed these characteristics about money?
 - a) “Unrighteous,”
 - b) “will one day fail,”
 - c) belongs to “another,”
 - d) Tendency toward “mastering” us
6. Who are the “friends” that Jesus encourages us to make? (ref v9)
7. What does it mean to “make friends by means of unrighteous wealth” -- How might we use our money to make friendships that have eternal significance? (ref Matt 6:19-21)
8. How might that contrast with the pharisees’ attitude toward their money and what they treasured? (ref v15)
9. How can our stewardship of our money be a reflection of our love for God? How might God be calling you to be generous or wise in your use of money, or how might He be asking you to reframe your thinking about money?