

MONEY TALKS

1. The Secret

Start off with feedback from Sunday's message. What did those that were there - or those that have caught up online - take away from it? What encouraged them, what informed them and what challenged them?

Read Philippians 4.10-13

12 *I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. 13* *I can do all this through him who gives me strength.*

- Our Money System is driven primarily by Emotion, not Economics. What emotions have you experienced as a result of your finances – worry, anxiety, excitement, desire, greed, envy, pride, ambition? How does your emotional state tend to impact your spending? What are your triggers?
- Why does Paul call Independent Contentment (contentment not determined by physical circumstances) a Secret? How do you learn this secret and why isn't it more known? Would you say you've learned the secret and if yes, how?
- v12. '*I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty*'. At what times in your life have you been in need and at what times have you experienced abundance? How did you cope with those times? Have you ever experienced Jesus giving you strength to handle your financial circumstances?
- Read Matthew 6.24 '*You cannot serve both God and Money*'. Jesus said that either love for God will disempower Materialism in your life, or loving the 'Money God' will disempower your ability to love and serve God. Have you ever experienced this at all (either way)? Why do you think Materialism drains the power out of our faith in Jesus? What's the best way to fight back?
- Big Idea: 'Emotion and spirituality are the biggest factors in the way we relate to money. Following Jesus empowers us to handle money well, rather than be handled by it.'

Pray together in twos and threes for a greater love for God. Pray that loving Jesus and serving him would disempower the hold that materialism has over us. Pray for those that are struggling with money issues – debt, anxiety, worry. Pray that this series helps us all get better at handling money. Pray for the contentment of Christ that is independent of circumstance.