

WARM-UP

- Tell us about one of your achievements in school. What about it were you most proud of?
- When was the last time you enjoyed something you worked hard for? What did you do?
- Have you experienced losing something you cherished? What happened?

WORD *As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. 1 TIMOTHY 6:17*

There were wealthy people in the early church, and they were not condemned for being wealthy. Rather, through this letter, the Apostle Paul instructed Timothy to tell them to *set their hopes* on God, not on their riches. The same is true for us today. We may *be haughty* (or proud) not just because of money, but also because of our skills and abilities. We can end up having a false source of security. Whatever our financial status may be, we need to constantly pause and ask ourselves these three questions to help us see where our confidence lies.

1 | How does money affect your attitude in life?

As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty . . . **1 TIMOTHY 6:17**

Wealth can make us proud and confident of our own abilities. But it does not determine the condition of our hearts. Not everyone who is poor is humble, and not everyone who is wealthy is arrogant. According to Proverbs 21:4, *haughty eyes and a proud heart are sin*. Since sin is not pleasing to God, we need to turn away from these wrong attitudes. Instead, we are to put on humility, knowing that God (not ourselves) is the source of our security. How is this real in your life?

2 | Where do you put your trust?

. . . nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God . . . **1 TIMOTHY 6:17**

Scripture tells us that riches are uncertain and we are charged not to put our hope in them. We will not always have what we have now. A sickness, an accident, a wrong business decision, and a lot of other things can completely turn our financial situation around. According to Proverbs 23:5, when we set our eyes on wealth, it can develop *wings, flying like an eagle toward heaven* and away from us. Instead, we are to put our confidence and hope in God alone. Share about a time when you trusted God for your finances. What did God show you about Himself through this situation?

3 | How does God provide for you?

. . . *who richly provides us with everything to enjoy.* **1 TIMOTHY 6:17**

Sometimes we think that we are closer to God when we are suffering. Or worse, we may think that God wants us to suffer by being poor so that we can be closer to Him. However, Scripture clearly says that God *richly provides us with everything*—which He wants us *to enjoy*. In fact, He sent His Son Jesus as a sacrifice so that we could enjoy the greatest blessing—eternal life. With this comes the assurance that He will also *graciously give us all things* (Romans 8:32). Whatever our situation may be, we can be confident that God will provide all that we will ever need, and even our wants, according to His will. How does God meet our needs? (Philippians 4:19)

APPLICATION

- According to Deuteronomy 8:18, it is God who gives us the power to produce wealth. Have you put your trust in your own abilities and skills to earn a living? What can you do this week to remember His goodness and claim His provision?
- Do you have a friend who is experiencing a financial setback? What can you do this week to encourage your friend to trust God?
- Identify three friends or family members that you can talk to about being secure in God and in His promises. Set aside some time this week to meet with and pray for them.

