



## BIG IDEA SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Small groups that focus on the Big Idea for the week can use this guide to apply the message to life and take action. Feel free to use whatever parts of this guide best fit your group personality and time frame. Do NOT feel like you have to use every question. All verses, unless otherwise noted, are from the New International Version (NIV).

**09.04/05.10 // The Secret Life of the American Christian: I'm Serving Two Masters.**

**BIG IDEA: *Serving two masters is serving ourselves and our possessions over God and His kingdom. Put God first and everything else He will supply.***

### // Ice Breaker \_\_\_\_\_

**Option 1: How does culture promote the idea that you need to have a big house, new car, latest clothes, gadgets and lots of money to be secure and successful?**

**Option 2: Now that Labor Day is here, what would you say was the highlight of your summer?**

### // Questions for Discussion \_\_\_\_\_

**1. Genesis 1:1** In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

**Genesis 1: 31** God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.

**What did God say about what He made?**

**2. Deuteronomy 28: 8** "The Lord will send a blessing on your barns and on everything you put your hand to. The Lord your God will bless you in the land he is giving you."

**Do you think that God will still bless us with material things today? Why or why not?**

**If He does bless us, what should our attitude be?**

**3. Luke 16: 13**

Jesus said; "No servant can serve two masters. 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 both God and Money."

**In what ways do Christians serve money? What problems can result in doing this?**

**4. 1 John 3: 1a**

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!

And that is what we are!

**What are some needs that are trying to be met by money & material things?**

**Where should our worth come from? Why?**

**5. Ecclesiastes 5: 10** "Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income."

**How can money and wealth deceive us?**

**What do we think it can do for us?**

6. **James 3:16** “For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.”

**How does a desire for wealth contribute to our being selfish?**

**Technically, we own our stuff. Can you give some examples of where our stuff owns us?**

7. **1 John 1: 8 - 9** If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

**What are some ways to know if you are materialistic?**

**Why is it important to realize and admit that we are materialistic?**

**When do you think it is sinful to be materialistic?**

8. **Matthew 6: 19-21** “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

**What is the proper balance of being good stewards of what God has given us and hoarding things because we are materialistic?**

**How would you explain 'where your heart is, there your treasure will be also.'?**

9. **2 Corinthians 4:18** “So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”

**In the message, Bob said that we have to guard our eyes. What did he mean by that?**

**What practical ways can we do this?**

**10. Matthew 6: 25**

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes?"

**What types of money issues and physical things do people worry about?**

**What are some ways that help us to not worry about these things?**

11. **1 Timothy 6: 7-8** “For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.”

**Why is approximately \$150 Billion spent on advertising each year?**

**What are some ways we can be content with what we have?**

12. **Psalms 37: 12** “The wicked borrow and do not repay, but the righteous give generously!”

**How can giving to others help break the bond of materialism?**

**Have the group share a time when they helped someone out and how it felt.**

// **Application** \_\_\_\_\_

**Commit to memory Luke 16: 13**

"No servant can serve two masters. 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 both God and Money."

**Pray and examine your attitude. Do you trust in money and material things or in God?**

// **Prayer** \_\_\_\_\_

- **We would trust in God and not in money.**
- **We would be generous toward those in need.**

*If a person gets his attitude toward money straight, it will help straighten out almost every other area in his life.*

*Billy Graham*