

### The Heart of the Matter

13. Have you personally experienced God as a “good” God? How do you think of Him during hard times?

14. What are some of the false gods/idols you tend toward in the midst of your walk with Christ? How do you battle these impulses?

15. How has God changed your attitude over the years toward possessions and money?

16. In light of this study where would you say your “heart/treasure” is? What needs to change for you today?

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## Life Group Study Guide

(Life Groups Coming Fall 2017)

### The Heart of the Matter Is It's a Matter of the Heart Selected Passages For the Week of July 16, 2017

#### Getting Started

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling?
2. If somehow you came into possession of a \$1,000,000 with no strings attached, what would you do with it?
3. Who handled the finances in your household growing up? Who made the big decisions when there weren't enough resources to go around? How has your childhood experience affected how you manage money now?

LIFE GROUP is a small group ministry of  
BETHEL COMMUNITY CHURCH, CHICAGO, IL  
Some questions adapted from: The NIV (c) Serendipity Bible, 1996, Serendipity House, and Bible Study  
Fellowship International @ [www.bsfiinternational.org](http://www.bsfiinternational.org)

## **Digging Deeper**

4. How difficult is it for you to accept the assertions put forward in Deuteronomy 8:18 and 1 Corinthians 4:7? After all, you're the one working, practicing, studying, etc... How much is you - how much is God?

5. Most of us can slip into trusting wealth. When do you? How do you keep your guard up? (Proverbs 11:28; 11:4; Ecclesiastes 5:10; Luke 12:15)

6. Do you ever have workaholic tendencies? When? Why? (Psalm 127:2; Proverbs 23:4-5)

7. Jesus has some interesting advice in Luke 12:32-34. Would you ever sell things to give to God's work? Do you truly believe you're building a purse in heaven when giving for Christ's sake? ?

8. According to Matthew 5:42, Jesus says that we should "Give to the one who asks of you, and do not refuse the one who should borrow from you." Do you think Jesus really means this? Really? Everyone? No exceptions? What exceptions?

9. Works never earn salvation. Yet their absence is closely linked with damnation - and their existence is closely linked with salvation. Why is that? What do these 3 passages have to say about it? (James 2:14-17; Matthew 25:35-46; Luke 19:8-9) What do these passages have to do with how we handle our material resources?

10. Do you think it was easier to give during Old Testament times (vs New Testament times) since the tithes were prescribed by God? How relevant do you think the OT tithe is for us today in our giving? Do you think 10% should be a minimum?

11. Compared to the Macedonian church in 2 Corinthians 8:1-5, where are you most like them? Least like them?

12. Under the standard of 2 Corinthians 9:6-7, what changes do you need to make in regard to how you handle your material possessions?