

**Morning Star Church  
Small Group Study Guide**

**“That’s Nonsense: It’s Not Your Stuff” November 21-22, 2009**

**Message Synopsis:** This was the final message by Pastor Mike in the series, *That’s Nonsense*. God has been challenging us to think from a different paradigm about our finances. We have seen two significant realities so far from God’s perspective; being purposeful in directing our finances to match the priorities of our hearts is His desire for us, and discovering that God can do more with 90% than we can with 100%. This past weekend Pastor Mike showed us that God views all of our resources as *HIS*. We do not own them, we are managers of them.

*Then David praised the LORD in the presence of the whole assembly: “O LORD, the God of our ancestor Israel, may you be praised forever and ever! Yours, O LORD, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty. Everything in the heavens and on earth is yours, O LORD, and this is your kingdom. We adore you as the one who is over all things. Wealth and honor come from you alone, for you rule over everything. Power and might are in your hand, and at your discretion people are made great and given strength.*

*“O our God, we thank you and praise your glorious name! But who am I, and who are my people, that we could give anything to you? Everything we have has come from you, and we give you only what you first gave us! We are here for only a moment, visitors and strangers in the land as our ancestors were before us. Our days on earth are like a passing shadow, gone so soon without a trace.*

1 Chronicles 29:1-15 (NLT)

**Additional Passages:** Deuteronomy 8:18; Psalm 10:3; Psalm 24:1-2; Psalm 49:16-17; Luke 12:16-21; Matthew 25:14-30.

**Questions for you small group to consider:**

1. Because of our quest to achieve the *American Dream* in our “self-made” society, many have developed unhealthy thinking believing that we are our own source of prosperity! Share with your group your response to that assumption.
2. The testimony of the Bible teaches these truths: the land belongs to God (Lev. 25:23); the earth is the Lord’s (Psa. 24:1); the animals are the Lord’s (Psa. 50:10); the minerals in the earth and their wealth belongs to God (Haggai 2:8); each person is God’s (Ezek. 18:4); you are not your own (1Cor. 6:19-20). Based on this we have a lot to be thankful for! What connection do you see between understanding the source of our wealth and our willingness to give wealth away?
3. Has man been a good steward of the resources God has given us? What could we do better?
4. How much of what you “own” will be passed off to family? To the government? To other people you do not even know?
5. Discuss with your group how you could begin planning right now to leave a *legacy of resources* back to God.

**Prayer Requests**

Wise stewards are guided by LORDSHIP, not by HOARDSHIP.

***Your stuff is not yours! (That's Nonsense, right!?!?)***

- "Stuff" creates the illusion of ownership.  
*"You may say to yourself, 'My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.' But remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms His covenant, which He swore to your forefathers, as it is today."  
(Moses, Deuteronomy 8:17-18)*
- God is the owner of everything.  
*"The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it." (Psalm 24:1)*
- I am a steward/manager of God's "stuff."  
*"Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. So also, the one with the two talents gained two more. But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money." (Jesus, Matthew 25: 14-18)*

**Kingdom Paradigm Shift**

*From... I give God 10% of my stuff.  
to... God lets me keep 90% of His blessing.*

- I can be generous because God will refill my supply.  
*"Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God." (Apostle Paul, 2 Corinthians 9:10-11)*

**For further devotional study ...**

Day 1 Psalm 24	Day 4 Matthew 25:14-30
Day 2 Psalm 49: 16-17	Day 5 Luke 12: 16-21
Day 3 Exodus 19:5	Day 6 Psalm 92