

Group Meeting

Welcome!

Welcome to Session 9 of *Believe*. If there are any new members in your group, take a moment to introduce yourselves to each other. Then spend a couple of minutes sharing insights or questions about this session's personal study. Now start the video!

VIDEO TEACHING NOTES

As you watch the video segment for Session 9, use the following outline to record some of the main points. (The answer key is found at the end of the session.)

- Key Question: What is God's _____ on my life?
- Key Idea: I believe everything I am and everything I own _____ to God.
- Key Verse: "The earth is the LORD's, and _____ in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters." (Psalm 24:1-2)
- Everything belongs to and is owned by the Lord, the maker and creator of everything. He has the patent, the intellectual property rights, and the deed to _____.
- Christians recognize they are not _____ who make contributions to God, but rather managers of everything we are and own.
- (Key Application) I move from owner to _____.
- (Key Application) What does God want me to _____ with what he has given me?
- Being a manager is so much more _____ than being an owner.
- I _____ over the deed of my house and life to God.

GETTING STARTED

Begin your discussion by reciting the Key Verse and Key Idea together as a group. On your first attempt, use your notes if you need help. On your second attempt, try to state them completely from memory.

KEY VERSE: "The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters." (Psalm 24:1-2)



KEY IDEA: I believe that everything I am and everything I own belong to God.

GROUP DISCUSSION

As a group, discuss your thoughts and feelings about the following declarations. Which statements are easy to declare with certainty? Which are more challenging, and why?

- I believe that everything I am or own comes from God and belongs to God.
- I believe that a Christian should live a sacrificial life, not driven by pursuit of material things.
- I believe that Christians should give at least 10 percent of their income to God's work.
- I believe God will bless Christians now and in the life to come for their good works.

Based on your group's dynamics and spiritual maturity, choose the 2–3 questions that will lead to the best discussion of this week's Key Idea.

1. Discuss the benefits of good stewardship principles and the ramifications that arise when they are ignored.

2. How would seeing yourself as a manager of God's property, rather than an owner of personal possessions, change the way you approach your daily life?
3. Commonly, one of the first words a child speaks is "mine." What does that tell us about human nature? How does that's-mine thinking hinder good stewardship?
4. In what ways, if any, has good stewardship rewarded you financially, emotionally, or spiritually?

Read Mark 12:41–44 (see the section "... Of Their Money" in Believe) and choose 1–2 questions that will lead to the greatest discussion in your group.

1. Based on what you just read, what seems to be most important to God when it comes to the act of giving?
2. Can the poor widow's example be emulated if you are a person of wealth? If so, how?
3. Who in your life has the poor widow's mentality toward their possessions? What specifically did they do that caught your attention?

CASE STUDY

Use the following case study as a model for a real-life situation where you might put this week's Key Idea into practice.

Financial stress has forced Sophia to sell her house and purchase a small loft in the city. Although she knows this move is the wisest thing for her to do, she admits that having to downsize makes her feel like a failure. Although her new loft only has room for half of her things, she can't seem to let any of her possessions go.

Using the Key Applications of this chapter, what practical advice would you give Sophia? (If needed, refer to your video notes for a reminder of this session's Key Applications.)

CLOSING PRAYER

Close your time together with prayer. Share your prayer requests with one another. Ask God to help you put this week's Key Idea into practice.

JOURNAL

If your church is doing the *Believe* church-wide campaign, bring this study guide with you to church and use the following space to take notes from the pastor's or teacher's message. If your church provides an outline, consider keeping it with this guide so you will have all of your notes and thoughts from your *Believe* journey in one place.

VIDEO NOTES ANSWER KEY

call / belongs / everything / everything / owners / manager / do / freeing / sign