



## God-Lived Life: A Life Lived Shrewdly

Based on Luke 16:1-15

*This week we continued our “God-Lived Life” Stewardship Series, with God’s reminders that a God-Lived Life is a life lived shrewdly.*

### Connect to Each Other

- The sermon talked about being shrewd. That term often has a negative connotation, bringing up penny pinchers and selfishness. However, Jesus holds it up as a virtue when used properly. Think of the most positive example of shrewdness in someone you’ve known. Describe their shrewdness.
  
- (Optional) Share something you tend to be shrewd about.

### Connect to the Word

- In verse 9, Jesus tells us to “use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.” He wants us to use what we have to build relationships that may have heavenly consequences. Come up with three biblical examples of believers doing that (five for extra credit).
  
- In verse 13, Jesus says, “No servant can serve two masters,” and describes how serving one is working against the other. Defend from Scripture the truth of this statement. Now prove it from life.

## Connect to Life

- One of the churches that first used “A God-Lived Life” had a food drive for the homeless shelter. It unexpectedly gave some members opportunity to talk to at least one homeless man and tell him about Jesus. He saw Christian love in action. Describe a time in your life when someone saw your love in how you used your possessions and it led to a conversation about what was really important (or a time when you missed an opportunity at that.)
  
- How does implementing a budget process correlate to this “shrewdness” Jesus talks about? Any advice you can share with others in the group? Anything you’d like to try to be able to be more focused with how you use the resources God has given you for this limited time?

## Leader Notes

### Answers for the “Connect to Each other” section:

*Answers will vary. In defining the positive of shrewdness, think of ways to express someone not being wasteful with money or things so that they can use generously for God’s work or serving others.*

### Answer for the “Connect to the Word” section:

- Examples (lots of options)
  - *Genesis 18 – Abraham welcoming strangers to get to know them (from last month’s OT reading). He didn’t know who they were when they passed by, but he was very generous and had opportunity to talk with them.*
  - *Matthew 9:9-13 – Matthew inviting other tax collectors to his house. He wanted them to know Jesus, so had no thought about money spent to have party.*
  - *Acts 2-6 (especially Acts 2:47) – Early Christians were an example of giving up their stuff for others and others were seeing it impressed, so that daily people were coming and hearing the Word and believing.*
  - *Acts 16:11-15– Lydia wanted to support the mission work—so gave her house for it*
  - *Old Testament Lesson 2 Kings 4:8-17 – same thing—Shunammite woman wanted to support work and so housed Lord’s prophet*
  - *Parables of pearl of great value and hidden treasure—Matthew 13:44-46, Jesus explains some things worth more than others—worth everything.*
  - *And many more...*
- No Servant Can Serve Two Masters
  - *You might look to the 1st Commandment (and 9th & 10th). God is to be first. When we long for things instead of for him, we sin*
  - *There are examples of people who got caught up in the love of money—Judas Iscariot; the rich young ruler (Matthew 19); and those who put aside money and wealth for the sake of the Gospel—Elisha (1 Kings 19), Zacchaeus (Luke 19), Matthew (Matthew 9), Jesus (Matthew 8:20 et. al.)*
  - *Answers will vary. There are many examples of people focusing on wealth and forgetting what is important. Consider Cat Steven’s song “The Cat’s in the Cradle”*
  - *This serves as transition to “Connect to Life” section. How are we doing at being shrewd for the right reasons?*

### Answer for the “Connect to Life” section:

- **Answers will vary.** *Make sure to be ready to offer absolution for missed opportunities and talk about the lesson Jesus teaches us in the sermon text to be thinking about them and ready for them. The leader may want to be ready ahead of time with something to get the ball rolling.*
- **Budget Question:** *Leader will want to discuss the importance of being prudent like the man in the parable and considering the situation. For as much as we work on getting more and more, we can’t take it with us. What tips can the group share with one another for bringing our practice more in line with our belief on that matter? Consider some of the things on the challenge card. Committed regular offerings as firstfruits is a great first step. Financial Peace University may be helpful in being more thoughtful about our budget and what really matters.*