

WORSHIP

SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

Forever, You are Good, God is Able, Because of Who You Are, Blessed Be the Name of the Lord

WELCOME

The Land of Er. Briefly share which aspect of your life you desire to be better or more of.

WORD

HEBREWS 13:5

¹³ *Don't love money; be satisfied with what you have. For God has said, "I will never fail you. I will never abandon you."*

Many of us today live in the "Land of Er" wherein we want to be rich-er, great-er, pretti-er, handsom-er, etc. Apparently, finding our identity in things of this world and our desire for such things is another "landmine" that we must diffuse before it totally destroys us - materialism.

King Solomon, the wisest king who has ever lived said "And I saw that all toil and all achievement spring from one person's envy of another. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind."

(**Ecclesiastes 4:4**). Many have been consumed with materialism and pursued things of this world and yet had lived meaningless lives.

Hebrews 13:5 can help us on how to diffuse the landmine of materialism.

DON'T LOVE MONEY

"Don't love money" comes from the Greek word 'aphilarguros' which means not to hoard wealth and be covetous. It simply means to stop grabbing things from the extreme greed of our insatiable wants. This instruction from God extends to materialism as a whole; we are told not to love the world and the things in it (**John 2:15**).

Grabbing leads to a world of grief. It will pierce us and lead us to all sorts of sorrow. "For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs." (**1 Timothy 6:10**).

Grabbing causes one not to finish well. Even if we say we are a faithful servant of God today, we should always be on guard. Demas was also follower of Jesus Christ and a co-worker of the Apostle Paul (**Philemon 23-24**) but the Bible tells us that later on he loved the world and deserted Paul (**2 Timothy 4:9-10**). Even at present, there are stories of some church pastors and leaders

who had fallen into the love of money, possessions, pleasures, power, etc.

Grabbing gives us a false sense of security. "Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy." (**1 Timothy 6:17**). We should remember that our self-worth is not determined by our net worth.

Grabbing also deprives us of the opportunity to receive God's blessings. When we keep on grabbing, our hands will be full of stuff that when God's best and the true abundant life comes, we have no more room for it, unless we let go of the small stuff that we are holding on to.

All these tell us that no one is spared from the dangers of the landmine of materialism. Therefore, we should always be on guard and not love the world so that we will be able to receive the abundant life which God has in store for us and that we may finish well.

BE CONTENT

God's instruction is "Don't love money", and in turn "Be satisfied with what you have." In the Greek, the word 'arkeo' is used which means "to be content" and "to be possessed of unailing strength. To be content would lead us to pray, "Lord, if it is not for me, remove the desire from my heart and give me the strength to say no". In our desire not to grab, we surrender our weakness to God, receive strength from the Lord to say 'No,' and learn to be content (**2 Corinthians 12:9**).

To be content also means that our prayers should be, "Lord, give me neither poverty nor riches, but just enough to satisfy my needs..." (**Proverbs 30:8-9**). Jesus modeled this in the prayer that He taught His

WORD (cont'd)

disciples, "Give us each day our daily bread..."
(**Luke 11:3**) for God knows what is enough and what is best for each of us.

If we happen to have more than enough, the best way to resist materialism is to be sharing. As we stop grabbing, we should start giving; being content already with what is enough.

At home, here are some ways to teach young children how to be content:

1. Teach them to wait
(practice delayed gratification)
2. Teach them to share and give
3. Model simplicity
4. Filter through influences positively
5. Pray with thanksgiving
(**1 Thessalonians 5:16-17**).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. **Diffuse Materialism.** What is the instruction, solution and reason to diffuse materialism from **Hebrews 13:5**?
2. **Mind the Grab.** Based on your experience, share an instance wherein you "grabbed" something out of materialism. What did you learn from it? Briefly share.
3. **Stop Grabbing.** Complete this sentence: Stop grabbing, start _____. Instead of grabbing, what will you start doing?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for the people in your Pray-Care-Share list and seek God's prompting to connect with at least one of them this week. Ask the person/s what you can pray for him/her, how you can care to bless him/her then use the verse **Hebrews 13:5** and your learnings from it as you Pray-Care-Share in action.

Sample PCS call-to-action:

- *The instruction and promise found in **Hebrews 13:5**.*
- *The dangers of loving money (materialism) as a landmine and the benefits of living a life of contentment and trusting in God.*

TRUST GOD

God said, "I will never fail you. I will never abandon you." We can follow His instruction and His solution because we can put our trust in Him. The reason why we can stop grabbing and be content with what is enough is because we know who God is and we trust Him in everything.

In the time of our wanting to grab things, remember God's promise – He will never leave us, nor forsake us (**Hebrews 13:5**). As a result of trusting God, He gives us unspeakable peace, joy and thanksgiving in His presence.

When we trust God, He will help us live our lives free from the love of money and He will enable us to be content with what we have. Whether God "gives or takes away," let our prayer be, blessed be the name of the Lord!

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants and a God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends