This study guide is designed to help you dig deeper into the weekend message over the next week. The questions below are meant to encourage thoughtful discussion and prayer within your Life Group.

**KEY SCRIPTURE**

READ 1 TIMOTHY 6:6-10 & 6:17-19 TOGETHER AS A GROUP.

**MAIN IDEAS**

READ THIS SECTION ALOUD WITH YOUR GROUP:

This week we kicked off our “All In” series with Pastor Steve. In this passage, the Apostle Paul was coaching Timothy on how to address the Ephesian congregation’s vast wealth. Paul knew that if the Ephesian congregation would release treasure into ministry the entire region and whole world would benefit. As Paul wrote these words, he knew that many in the congregation might not immediately consider themselves rich. The thing about the word “rich” is that it often feels like it’s describing someone else. We invent different measures of what rich looks like that are constantly changing, and we wait for a feeling that we are rich. Our ideas of wealth are unattainable because “rich” is a moving target and we constantly want more.

In these verses, Paul has a message for the rich people in the church. First, rich people should not be arrogant. They should not put too much hope in wealth because you just can’t trust it. Instead, they should place hope in God who gives us things to enjoy. The rich should also become rich in good deeds and generosity, being willing to share with others. By doing this, they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age and take hold of the life that is truly life.

Many of us buy into the message that having and spending more money will make us happier. The truth is many people were happier with less than they have now. Being rich complicates our lives and can take the focus off what is truly important. The world has no idea how unhappy the rich are.

Paul challenges the wealthy to work on being really good at being rich. Most rich people aren’t very good at being rich because they don’t even know that they are rich. The hope in this All In series is that we realize that the vast majority of our church family is already rich. We are the Apostle Paul’s target audience in these verses. Most Cornerstoners are richer than most people in the world, the US, and in California. Whether or not you feel rich, every one of us is living in the richest time in one of the richest nations in human history - yet we are not generous. We don’t feel like we have arrived yet so we decide to be generous later, after we have enough. Real, sustainable, extravagant generosity will not come until we realize that we are already wealthy. We have to let the facts override the feelings and allow God to transform us.
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

How do you respond to that preaching? Do you have a natural resistance to being called rich? Honestly share how this makes you feel.

How much more would you need to have before you would label yourself “rich”? Do you think you would ever feel rich?

How often are you anxious about money? Why is it important for us to study the Biblical topic of money?

What does extravagant generosity look like? Can you think of any stories of generous people?

How could your relationship with God be stuck on this topic of money? How could you grow in regards to money?

What do you think it would take for you to become extravagantly generous? What would that look like in your life?

GOING DEEPER
Sit down this week and calculate your annual household income. Compare that to the $9,733 global median annual income. Talk with your spouse or a friend about how you feel about your annual income compared to that number.

BIBLE READING PLAN
As you read throughout the week, take time to meditate and pray on each section of Scripture.

[SIX DAY BIBLE READING PLAN]
Monday: 1 Timothy 6:6-7
Tuesday: 1 Timothy 6:8
Wednesday: 1 Timothy 6:9-10
Thursday: 1 Timothy 6:17
Friday: 1 Timothy 6:18
Saturday: 1 Timothy 6:19

MEMORY VERSE
1 Timothy 6:17-18 NIV:
“Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.”

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