

TAKING IT HOME

1. This Sunday we talked about how God provides when we are obedient to Him and pray. From the widow's story, what insights do you gain between the relationship of our obedience and God's provision?
2. As we take steps to pay off debt, it's important to remember to simply pray. Share a time when God met a financial need of yours through prayer. What did this situation teach you about the power of prayer?
3. With your group, pray for those currently struggling with bondage to debt. Ask God for His wisdom and guidance in taking the steps needed to get out of debt.

YOU NEED A PLAN

In order to get the most out of this series, we will list some optional activities each week you might consider doing this week. These are designed to help you work toward experiencing God's financial freedom, making God your master and money your slave.

1. This week's activity is to **fill out the debt snowball worksheet**. This worksheet will allow you to write down all of your current debts from the smallest balance to the largest. Use this sheet as a guide to paying off those debts. The first step is to pay minimum payments on all debts except for the smallest one you have. This will allow you to build momentum in tackling your debts head on. You can find this form at www.edgewaterchurch.org/freedom.
2. If you haven't already, **fill out a budget**. Use this to eliminate unnecessary spending as well as to determine ways you can begin saving money. Forms for your budget can also be found at www.edgewaterchurch.org/freedom.

FINANCIAL FREEDOM
How Do I Dump My Debt?
Deuteronomy 15:1-6

Pastor John Fanous
Edgewater Covenant Church
February 13, 2011

FINANCIAL FREEDOM: HOW DO I DUMP MY DEBT? Deuteronomy 15:1-6

REVIEW (Matthew 25:14-19)

- A right relationship with **God** and a right relationship with **money** lead to **financial peace**.
- God is the **master**, we are the **stewards**, and money is the **slave**.

The Bible equates DEBT with _____

"The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is the slave of the lender."
Proverbs 22:7 (See also: 2 Kings 4:1-7, Nehemiah 5:4-5)

HOW TO DUMP YOUR DEBT

1. STOP _____

"No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money." Matthew 6:24

2. FOLLOW A _____

"Let no debt remain outstanding..." Romans 13:8a

Tool: "The Debt Snowball" at www.edgewaterchurch.org/freedom

3. INCREASE YOUR _____

"He who works his land will have abundant food, but the one who chases fantasies will have his fill of poverty." Proverbs 28:19

4. _____

See Growth Group homework: 2 Kings 4:1-7

"Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors." Matthew 6:12
A person's love for Jesus: Luke 7:36-50

Growth Group Homework

For the Week of February 13, 2011

QUICK REVIEW

1. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

MY STORY

1. What's the silliest or most questionable thing you have purchased on credit?
2. How do you think lives would be changed financially if people stopped using credit cards or taking out unnecessary loans?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Today's Bible reading is about someone who miraculously got out of debt. It illustrates the connection between our faithfulness and obedience to God and His surprising provision. Read **2 Kings 4:1**. It was an accepted custom in Israel that if a family could not pay off its debts by any other means, some or all members of that family would work as servants for the creditor. The situation was serious for the widow if her two sons were taken away: she would have no one to work the family land. She faced a further downward spiral of debt. Imagine you had an afternoon to spend with this woman to hear all of her concerns. What do you think she would say to you?

Has having debt in your life ever made you feel like you were a slave to someone? If so, how?

2. What resources did the widow have to pay off her debt (**2 Kings 4:2**)?

Can you relate to her situation of not having enough resources to pay off debt?

3. In **verses 3-4**, Elisha the prophet gave the widow strange instructions. Fortunately, the widow listened to him. Make a list of reasons why you might *not* have listened to the prophet if you were in her situation:
4. Read **verse 5-7**. God is big. He could have provided what the widow needed without her going through all the effort. Why do you think God chose to have her do work in the midst of the miracle?