

Counter Rev Small Group Conversation based on Matthew 6:19-24

Keep this conversation no longer than 45 minutes. Do your best to draw out the contributions of everyone. Land the time in prayer, but remember to gently coach people who haven't prayed in a group before. There is no pressure to pray aloud.

Getting to know each other

- If your house was burning and you could grab only 2 things (not people), what would they be?

Hearing God's whispers together

- If we make the time to listen, God likes to speak to us through the Bible. So start by getting someone with a nice reading voice to slowly read Matthew 6:19-24 twice to the group. As the person reads, everyone needs to 1) listen, eyes closed, letting the words 'wash' over them, 2) listen out for just one phrase that seems to 'stick' to them, and 3) then, during two minutes of silence, ponder their phrase with an openness to anything God might want to show them. Then everyone shares their phrase, as well as any insights 'received'.

Understanding and applying Christ's teaching in Matthew 6:19-24

- *If some of your group did not hear the Sunday message, then play the summary audio clip.*
- *Read verse 21.* Our treasure is what our heart clings to most deeply. It is the primary thing / person / activity in which we find our identity, value, significance and security. Name some examples of treasure that people that you know often have.
- *Read verse 19-20.* Either we treasure something eternal or something temporal. From insights in Christ's teaching and your own experience, what's unwise about treasuring what's temporal rather than what's eternal?
- *Read verses 22-23.* In these verses Jesus parallels our physical eye-sight (v22,23a) with our spiritual eye-sight (v23b). What is your current experience (or lack of experience) of the eyes of your heart being opened to perceive what wonderful treasure that God, Christ and his kingdom is?
- *Read verse 24.* We can't serve both God and Money, but we can serve God with Money. In verses 22-23, the mention of eyes being 'good' or 'bad' imply eyes that are 'generous' or 'stingy'. Since generosity is one major way to serve God with money, what is the main hindrance, if any, to your being more generous 1) to the church we're part of and 2) as a way of life?

Praying together

- Either as a whole group, or in smaller groups, spend a few minutes praying to God about the insights that have emerged in this time together.
- Also, ask if anyone has any prayer requests - and if there is more than one, then get a few people around each to pray for them at the same time.