



# MATERIALISM

## STARTING THE DISCUSSION...

Canadians are among the wealthiest people in the world. While we don't always feel particularly wealthy, based on the amount of money that the average Canadian makes and the quality of life we enjoy, we are far above most other people on earth. The question we ought to ask then is what do we do with our wealth? The easy answer that we can fall into is simply to use our money to buy more things. Whether we are trying to fill our houses with more stuff or using shopping as a way of dealing with stress, the default answer in our culture is to use our money to buy more stuff. Yet the gospel compels us to a different answer! We follow a saviour who became poor that we might be rich. Who gave up everything and became a servant that we might know him. That example motivates how we use our wealth, not for ourselves but for the good of others. Our money then becomes another way of revealing the true worth of knowing Jesus as we generously give our material blessings for the good of others and the glory of God.

## KEY TEXT: PSALM 67

TO THE CHOIRMASTER: WITH STRINGED INSTRUMENTS. A PSALM. A SONG.

- <sup>1</sup> May God be gracious to us and bless us  
and make his face to shine upon us, *Selah*
- <sup>2</sup> that your way may be known on earth,  
your saving power among all nations.
- <sup>3</sup> Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you!



- <sup>4</sup> Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,  
for you judge the peoples with equity  
and guide the nations upon earth. *Selah*
- <sup>5</sup> Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you!
- <sup>6</sup> The earth has yielded its increase;  
God, our God, shall bless us.
- <sup>7</sup> God shall bless us;  
let all the ends of the earth fear him!

**Additional Texts:** *Job 31:24-28, Jeremiah 9:23-24, Proverbs 30:8-9, Acts 4:32-37, Luke 18:18-30, 2 Corinthians 8, Ephesians 4:28, 1 Timothy 6:17*

## UNDERSTANDING THE WORD

1. What is the purpose of receiving God's blessing in verses 1-2? How does the rest of the Psalm focus on that?
2. Vs 1 is a reference to Numbers 6:24-25, what is the context for that blessing? How does that relate to the blessing in vs 6-7?

## APPLYING THE WORD

3. What areas of your life/thinking have been shaped by our culture's view on materialism? How has/can the gospel reshape your mindset?
4. In light of what the gospel calls us to do, how do you sense the Holy Spirit calling you to respond when it comes to your time, talents and possessions?

## PRAYING & ACTING

1. How can our group show the gospel in our community when it comes to materialism? What practical steps could we take to help our neighbourhood hear the gospel?
2. Pray that God would use our words and our actions to show the superior greatness of Jesus through our lives.

