

THE **crossing** **small groups**

Keith Simon | Luke 12: 22-34 Sermon Discussion Participant's Guide

Purpose of Discussion: A life lived for anything other than Jesus will produce anxiety.

Icebreaker: If you had to delete all but three apps from your smartphone, which ones would you keep?

OR

If you had to remove everything from your home but three items, which would you keep?

Discussion:

Transition:

Keith continued in Luke by looking at where Jesus explains to his disciples where it is they are to place not only their hope, but their lives as well. By pointing out to the disciples that God cares for the plants and animals of this world, common creatures and materials, Jesus hopes that the disciples will see that their lives are of infinitely more worth. Yet, we don't always live like that. We fail to see that a life secure in God through Jesus is a life that reduces anxiety about the world around us.

Read:

[Luke 12: 22-23](#)

²² Then Jesus said to his disciples: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. ²³ For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes.

1. Why does Jesus say not to worry about life, food, or clothes?

2. What basic life needs do you worry about the most?

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3. Worry and anxiety about one's life are different than planning and being wise about one's life. What do you think the difference is? Where do we tend to go wrong?

Keith said in his sermon that Jesus wants us to be afraid of the right things, to be afraid of the real danger. This larger threat Jesus identifies as spiritual death.

Read:

[Luke 12: 34](#)

³⁴ For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

4. What does Jesus mean by this statement?
5. Finish this statement, "With more resources or money I would _____."
6. Now, probe a little deeper. What is it about the above things that provides you with a sense of meaning and purpose? Have these things ever helped you overcome anxiety?
7. Keith mentions Jesus's teachings on not worrying about material needs. How can this principle be practically applied in a society driven by consumerism and materialism?

Keith reminded us of the potency of the Gospel, namely that our life in Jesus both gives us a right standing before God and a way to live under *and* with King Jesus. We don't have to struggle with or feel tied to the desires of this world. In fact, a life with Jesus releases us from the relentless desire to accumulate more, to spend more time on social media. It frees us from the anxiety that these things bring. Why? Jesus says your value comes from God, you don't have to prove yourself to him.

8. How does this truth encourage you?
9. What are ways you can daily remind yourself of the truth of the Gospel?

So what? What do we do? How does Jesus encourage us?

Read:

[Matthew 6:33](#)

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³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

The kingdom, and the kingdom alone, is to be the sole priority of the disciple and that toward which the disciple devotes his or her energy. The Greek word, “seek,” here does not necessarily mean to look for something not yet present and, given the context of the Gospel, certainly cannot mean one should seek to bring in the kingdom. This imperative means rather that one should make the kingdom the center of one’s existence and thus experience the rule of God in one’s heart.

Sharing and Prayer:

Spend time confessing and bringing to light areas of your life that are riddled with anxiety. Then, just like Matthew 6 states above, praise God for the generosity he has shown you in providing his son Jesus to overcome those difficulties.

Alternatively, you can pray for the Extra Mile Housing families. Pray that through the radical generosity of over 1500+ givers at The Crossing partnered with many other givers at Love Columbia families would find transitional housing and see the Love of Jesus.