

STUDY NOTES

ADVENT 2017
A SERIES *at* NEW CITY CHURCH

www.newcityphx.com/sermons

The following content is based on the message “Advent: Peace” on 12/17/17 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. The following is not meant to be a full synopsis but rather a brief look at the main ideas. To use this Study Guide effectively you must listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

Leaders using these Study Notes for group study and reflection should read the Biblical text thoroughly before beginning, using this resource as assistance and not relying solely on this material for insight. We encourage all leaders to pray and ask the Spirit for revelation as they lead their respective community groups.

PRAYER

Pray and ask God to lead the discussion as everyone gets to share.

SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 6:25-34

LIFE IS ABOUT MORE THAN OUR NEEDS

In this passage, Jesus is not talking about anxiety as a whole. There are situations in life where God might expect us to be anxious. However, in this passage, Jesus gives us a practical cure for financial anxiety by giving us some truths that we need to believe as we go through life.

Life is about more than physical or material essentials.

- *It's hard enough to talk about wants versus needs. However, how are personal character and eternity more important than having our physical or material needs met?*

GOD CARES FOR US

Humans are the most important thing in all of creation. We were the only thing that God declared to be “very good” and we are the only thing that God created in his own image.

God values us greatly and competently takes care of us.

- *How do you feel like God values you and takes care of you?*

WORRYING DOESN'T DO ANY GOOD

It's true that worrying about things that can be controlled can lead to action. However, most of the time worrying doesn't lead to positive results because most of the time people worry about things that they can't control.

- *How does worrying about things that can be controlled lead to action?*
- *Why does worrying about things that can't be controlled prove damaging to your emotional state?*

GOD KNOWS WHAT WE NEED

Really, financial anxiety is a matter of trust. God knows what we need, and we have to decide if we trust that he will provide for us. Maybe the most comforting truth comes in Matthew 6:33 when Jesus says, “But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”

Jesus basically says, “You worry about me, and I will worry about you.”

- *How is financial peace really a matter of trust?*
- *Jesus unconditionally provides salvation, but this promise here is conditional upon seeking his kingdom first. What do you think it means for you to seek the kingdom of God?*
- *Pray with each other that each one of us would seek the kingdom of God.*