



## Discussion Guide Red Letter Challenge — Part 5 LEADER GUIDE

.....

*Hey small group leaders! We hope you are remaining humble and open to being challenged, encouraged, and drawn more deeply into the love of Jesus as we explore the “Red Letter Challenge”! It’s our deepest desire that our church family SEES Jesus as He truly is, be YOKED to Him, finds REST for their souls, and BUILDS their lives on His word. Would you pray with and for your small group over the remaining 2 weeks?*

***Thank you for shepherding a group of people to Love God, Love Others, and Live Sent!***

NEED A RESOURCE, HAVE A QUESTION, OR WANT TO HAVE A CONVERSATION?  
Let us know how we can help! Contact your groups director or [discipleship@rockbridge.cc](mailto:discipleship@rockbridge.cc)

.....

**“You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving.”**

[Amy Carmichael, Irish missionary]

**LEADER RESOURCES || Leader Note** *We do our best to equip, empower, and encourage you to shepherd your group well. Access a resource by clicking on the underlined title and share them with your group!*

- **Passage Summary**
  - The beauty of life in the Kingdom is that it’s based on trust and God’s love and grace. In this kind of life, there is no lack, and we do not have to worry about things, stuff, wants, etc. That frees up our energy, which Jesus redirects toward seeking more of how His Kingdom is lived out. Life in God’s Kingdom includes generosity, stewardship, and reward-seeking, but the key is that His Kingdom has captured our hearts!
- **Red Letter Commitment Card**
  - During the final week of the Red letter Challenge (October 20), we will invite people to commit to taking a next step in one (or more) of the areas we focused on. We hope you’ll challenge and encourage your group to take a step TOGETHER as well!
- **Luke 12 Commentary & Our Hearts Follow Our Money**
  - Use this commentary and article for background and encouragement. These would be good resources to share before and/or after you gather.

**ENGAGE & CONNECT || Leader Note** *The goal for the icebreaker is to prepare your group for the conversation ahead by connecting with one another’s hearts and building joy together.*

How has someone gone out of their way to unexpectedly bless you with their money or belongings? What impact did that make on you?

**\*OPTIONAL\* DEVOTIONAL RECAP || Leader Note** *This is an opportunity to allow people to share what they gleaned from the previous week’s devotional readings. This should be kept short (30 seconds per person) so there is time for the discussion and prayer time. Your group can also share through a group text.*

What is one thing that God taught you, convicted you of, or invited you to begin doing as you read the devotional last week?

**BEGIN WITH PRAYER || Leader Note** Begin your time together by thanking God for his presence and praying His word back to Him. Ask a few people to pray, beginning in a posture of humility and dependence!

Spend a moment praying this passage, beginning your time together in humility and gratitude!

*“But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this?  
Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.”*

[1 Chronicles 29:14]

**BIG IDEA || Leader Note** Read this aloud so your group knows the theme of today’s reading and discussion.

Jesus invites His followers to do something with their money and possessions, keeping a right view of God and His kingdom in mind.

**PASSAGE & DISCUSSION || Leader Note** Have people read aloud the passage as instructed. Your role is to FACILITATE, so keep your group moving along, encourage multiple people to share, and look for opportunities to point out the grace and glory of God! Here are two reminders: 1) Every question does not have to be answered ... go where the Spirit leads! 2) Answers do not have to be read aloud ... they’re for guidance!

Have someone read aloud Luke 12:22-34. Consider having someone read it again, possibly in a different translation.

1. In the sermon we heard, *“The heart follows (pursues and seeks) what it values and prizes.”* How have you seen your heart lead you down the wrong path, especially as it pertains to money? *This is a good opportunity to go first!*
2. What does it mean to "consider the ravens" and "the lilies"? (v. 24 & 27) How can reflecting on creation help reduce our anxiety about material needs? *Jesus uses the examples of ravens and lilies to illustrate God’s care for His creation. Ravens, which do not sow or reap, are fed by God, and lilies are beautifully clothed without effort. By reflecting on these examples, we are reminded of God’s attentiveness to even the smallest parts of creation. This encourages us to trust that God, who values us even more, will meet our needs.*
3. What might it look like to trust God for provision while still being responsible stewards of what we have? *Answers will vary: trusting God for provision does not mean neglecting our responsibilities or being careless with our resources. It means acknowledging that all we have comes from God and is ultimately His. As stewards, we are called to manage our resources wisely, invest in Kingdom purposes, and trust God to meet our needs. This balance requires faith, wisdom, and a willingness to surrender control to God’s timing and provision.*
4. How does fear and anxiety about the future affect your ability to be generous? How can focusing on God's generosity help you overcome fear and anxiety in your daily life? *Fear often leads to hoarding and self-preservation, which inhibits our ability to be generous. Reflecting on God’s generosity helps us see that He isn’t stingy or reluctant to provide for us. By focusing on His goodness and past faithfulness, we’re reminded that God takes pleasure in caring for us. This shifts our mindset from fear to confidence in His abundant provision, helping us face challenges with peace rather than anxiety.*
5. How can you better align your spending habits with Kingdom values? *Answers will vary: aligning spending with Kingdom values means directing your money toward things that reflect God's priorities, such as generosity, justice, and mercy. This includes supporting ministries, helping those in need, and investing in causes that advance God's mission on earth rather than indulging in personal luxuries.*

6. How can we cultivate a heart that treasures God's Kingdom above earthly wealth? *Answers will vary: cultivating a heart for God's Kingdom involves intentional practices such as regular giving, serving others, and investing in spiritual growth. It requires a daily re-orientation of our desires away from materialism toward eternal values. Practicing gratitude, studying Scripture about generosity, and simplifying our lives can help shift our heart's focus to treasure the things of God.*
7. How does Jesus redefine the concept of "reward"? How should this influence the way we approach life? *Jesus redefines reward from being something material or earthly to something spiritual and eternal. The Kingdom of God itself is the reward—experiencing God's reign, presence, and care. This invites us to live with a perspective that prioritizes eternal values over temporal ones, influencing our decisions, relationships, and priorities to reflect Kingdom goals rather than personal ambition.*
8. In what ways can we use our material resources to reflect God's Kingdom here on earth? *We can reflect God's Kingdom by using our resources to advance justice, mercy, and love. This could include giving to those in need, supporting ministries that spread the gospel, or using our time and talents to serve others. Our resources become a reflection of God's generosity when we use them not just for personal gain but for the benefit of others and the advancement of His Kingdom.*
9. How does fear manifest in your life when it comes to finances? What would it look like to trust God more deeply in this area? *Answers will vary: fear might manifest as anxiety over bills, reluctance to give, or overworking to secure financial stability. Trusting God more deeply involves releasing control and believing that God, who knows our needs, will provide in His time and way, even when circumstances seem uncertain.*
10. How might your life change if you truly embraced the belief that "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also"? *Answers will vary: embracing this could lead to a radical reorientation of values and priorities. It might result in greater simplicity, increased generosity, and a focus on spiritual growth rather than material accumulation. Our decisions about spending, time, and relationships would be influenced by a desire to invest in God's Kingdom, knowing our heart will follow our treasure.*

**STEP OF OBEDIENCE** || **Leader Note** *This is an opportunity for people to put into practice what the Spirit is inviting them to do and live in obedience to God for the sake of love! You can encourage your group to be accountable to one another and use these to follow up with one another throughout the week.*

Jesus motivates our giving because of the surpassing value of God and His Kingdom! Based on the Holy Spirit's wisdom, what is a step of obedience that you can take in this area of your life? Here are a few additional questions to consider so we become yoked to Jesus with our giving and generosity ...

- How can you **trust** in a sufficient and gracious King more clearly?
- How can you seek a better and lasting **reward** from the Lord?
- How can you **use** your money to help His will be done on earth?
- How can your giving and generosity **demonstrate** what you really value?

*Give your group a few moments to reflect on their answers to the questions above. Then have your group answer the question aloud. Feel free to separate into smaller groups of 3-4 for this question.*

**PRAYER FOCUS** || **Leader Note** *We want to commit to praying for OTHERS as a unified church who is dependent upon God for everything. Be intentional about saving at least 5 minutes for prayer at the end of your gathering each week to pray together. You can pray for one another as well as the prompt below!*

## Kingdom Generosity

- Let's take a moment to reflect on Jesus' invitation to use our money and possessions wisely, with our hearts focused on God's kingdom. Jesus teaches us that everything we have is a gift from God for His glory and the good of others. He calls us to live with generosity, humility, and trust in His provision, knowing that our true treasure is in heaven.
- Let's pray for wisdom in how we manage what God has given us, having open hands and hearts to bless others. Let's ask God to shape our perspective, so we can live as faithful stewards, always remembering that He is our ultimate provider and source of security.

**MEMORY VERSE** || **Leader Note** *Through this series, we want to encourage your group to memorize the passage below, as it is one of the foundational truths upon which the "Red Letter Challenge" is based on. Psalm 119:11 tells us, "I have treasured your word in my heart so that I may not sin against you."*

*"Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain fell, the rivers rose, and the winds blew and pounded that house. Yet it didn't collapse, because its foundation was on the rock."  
(Matthew 7:24-25)*

**RLC RESOURCES** || **Leader Note** *Below are additional resources that you can share or use before, during, or after you gather. If you have questions, contact your groups director or [discipleship@rockbridge.cc](mailto:discipleship@rockbridge.cc)*

- **Rock Bridge WEBSITE**
  - This contains an overview video and links to a 40 day Bible reading plan, which complement and enhance the Red Letter Challenge series.
- **Red Letter Challenge VIDEOS**
  - These short videos can be sent to your group before you gather, watched at your gathering, or sent to follow up the discussion. They are NOT the discussion content.
- **Red Letter Disciple PODCAST**
  - This podcast does NOT go along with the series, but is about discipleship and will equip and encourage you. This would be best for people to listen to on their own.