

# WHEN ALL HELL<sup>\*</sup> BREAKS LOOSE

## Week Two

### Opening Prayer

God, thank you for being with us today and always. Help us to continue to live with surrender in all areas of our lives. Be with us today as we look at the topic of our finances and how we can turn to you for guidance in this area. Amen.

### Talk it Over

We are in our current series, When All Hell Breaks Loose and in this series we heard about EastLake Church aiming to be a place where it's safe to not be okay. EastLake values being a community where each of us can own our weaknesses, our failures, and our struggles. We also believe following Jesus will make our lives better and will make us better at life. Our goal is not to just be better Christians but to be better humans!

- Did you notice times this week where you embraced or struggled to embrace the idea that "it's okay to not be okay".
- As you reflect, what are some ways following Jesus makes you a better human?

This week we looked at the question "What do we do when all hell breaks loose in our finances?" We have all either experienced a financial crisis at some point in our lives or are currently in one. This week we looked at some of the ways we might have gotten in this situation in order to look at ways we can get out and stay out of financial storms.

### Read Proverbs 23:5 (NLT)

#### ***How most people live – Spend, Save, Give.***

Most americans have debt. We experience financial problems when we spend more than we have. This has been a problem over thousands of years. We can fall into this behavior pattern where money manages us, instead of us managing money. Spending is not bad, we all need and desire things, but when it adds stress to our lives or causes us to lack generosity we might want to look into why we spend how we spend.

- What is your relationship with spending?
- Where did you develop your ideas about money and spending?
- Can you think of someone in your life who taught you about finances? Was what you learned a good thing or a bad thing?

#### ***A better way to live – Give, Save, Spend***

The way of Jesus is often upside down in comparison to the way of this world. It's counter intuitive and requires a shift of our priorities. We are shifting from a "me first" way of thinking to a "God/others first" way of thinking.

- How does the 10% 10% 80% principle of giving, saving, spending sound to you? Have you followed this or something similar in your life?

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- What do you think it does to our heart when we give first and then spend? How do you experience Jesus in this way of living?

### **Read Matthew 6:21 (NLT)**

If I don't have a habit of giving first, my perspective says "everything that comes to me must be for me". Generosity is the exact opposite of materialism. Every single time you are generous you are making a counter-cultural statement saying "I reject the myth that life is all about me and about what I can accumulate. I don't buy into the lie that my net worth is equal to my self-worth."

- Have you experienced needing material things or money to feel worthy or accepted?
- What would it be like to trust Jesus with your worth and your money, allowing your heart to be more open to his ways? Share any thoughts you have about this with the group.
- Do you see a connection between being invited to be a part of God's bigger story and generosity? What does that stir in you?

### **Read Proverbs 21:20 (TLB)**

Margin is a beautiful thing. It helps us navigate many areas of our lives. It lowers our stress and helps us to thrive. It creates space for when things get tough and can potentially spare us from the bottom falling out.

- What areas of your life are you experiencing margin? What areas do you need more margin?
- When you know you have given, saved, and taken care of your basic needs what is your favorite thing to spend money on for enjoyment?
- How can you begin to save in order to create margin in your finances? What percentage might be doable even if it means you have to live differently than your friends?
- What is one small change you can make in order to experience a little more freedom and generosity in life?

### **Closing Prayer**

God, we come to you knowing we have made plenty of mistakes. We thank you for your grace and we pray that you continue to help us grow in generosity as we center our daily lives on you.

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### **How To Use this Discussion Guide**

The guide is meant to serve you and your group as you intentionally create space to grow in friendship and faith. Use the guide as a tool to help your unique group.

With that in mind, consider reviewing the guide before your group to see if some content or questions might resonate more or less with your group. Don't feel pressure to read all the content or to hit all the questions. The guide is not meant to be something you power through for the sake of completing. Pick the content from the guide you feel will help foster friendship and faith in your specific group.

In addition, spend some time praying for your group each week, preparing your heart, and asking God for wisdom and guidance as you lead.









