



Week Four | Shawn Johnson | 12.07.2025

Weekly Study

SHARE

As group members settle in, take a few minutes to check in with everyone and see how their lives are going. Share an exciting story from this week, your highs and lows, an answered prayer, or something you're struggling with. If someone is really struggling, rally the group around them and take a few moments to pray over them.

- **Share a high, a low, and something interesting from this week.**

GROW

As we close out our Kingdom Builder series, our final message confronts us with one of life's most sobering questions: Are we building His kingdom or our own? Through a powerful parable from Luke 12, we encounter a wealthy farmer who achieved everything he set out to accomplish—abundance, security, and surplus—yet missed the entire point of his existence. Jesus warns us that we can spend our whole lives making every shot, hitting every goal, only to discover at the final buzzer that we were aiming at the wrong hoop. The passage challenges our culture's relentless message that more possessions equal more fulfillment, exposing the lie that life to the fullest can be found in accumulation. Instead, we're invited into a radically different equation: true joy, peace, and purpose come not from what we acquire, but from what we're willing to give away.

The prayer at the heart of this teaching asks God to help us recognize that everything we have comes from Him, to seek His wisdom in stewarding it, and to intentionally build His kingdom rather than our own. This isn't about God needing our resources—it's about us needing the transformation that comes from generous living.

When we excel in the grace of giving, we discover an eternal purpose that transcends our temporary circumstances, leaving behind stories rather than just stuff, and making heaven more crowded in the process.

Read Luke 12:16-34

- **How did this week's message speak to you? Explain.**
- **How does the parable of the rich man in Luke 12 challenge our culture's definition of success and security?**
- **In what areas of your life have you been aiming at the 'wrong hoop'—pursuing goals that might lead to success but not to the life God intends for you?**
- **Jesus tells us not to worry about our life, our food, or our clothing. What area of your life feels hardest to trust God with right now—and why do you think that is?**
- **Worry often reveals what we value. What does your worry reveal about where your heart tends to drift?**

M O V E

Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-15, Matthew 6:25-34

Paul reminds us in 2 Corinthians 9:6–15 that generosity is never just about meeting needs—it's about participating in the supernatural work of God. He says that those who sow generously will reap generously, not simply in material provision, but in strengthened faith, increased thanksgiving to God, and the spread of the gospel. In other words, the seeds you sow for the Kingdom may absolutely provide for your household and sustain you on mission—but the truest

fruit, the Kingdom fruit, is far richer than anything money can buy. It reaches further than your budget, your lifetime, and your field of vision.

Think of it this way: Two farmers are neighbors. You walk up to the first farmer and ask, “Tell me about your job.” He looks up at you and replies, “I’ve been doing this for as long as I can remember. It’s hard work. I start before dawn and end long after dark. I’m in the hot sun all day. The ground is tough, the supplies are heavy, and the machines are dangerous. If all goes as planned, I’ll get just enough to get by and do it again next year. It’s a job. It pays the bills.” You thank him for his time and walk on.

You walk across the street and knock on the door of another farmer. Before you can ask him about his work, he welcomes you in, pours you some sweet, iced tea, and brings out a plate of cookies. When you ask him about his job, his face lights up. “I love my job! This farm has been in my family for the past 120 years. It’s all I’ve ever known. It’s hard work. I start before dawn and end long after dark. I’m in the hot sun all day. The ground is tough, the supplies are heavy, and the machines are dangerous. Every year, my family prays that everything goes as planned, but that’s not always the case. We’ve seen extreme droughts, brutal winters, wildfires, and more. But in every season, and in every situation, God has given us just enough to get by and do it again next year. This is so much more than a job. Yes, I get paid every fall during harvest, but the real miracle takes place long after the trucks pull away with my crops.

The true fruit comes to life on the dinner table of a young family states away—where they bow their heads and pray, “Lord, bless the hands that prepared this,” as they laugh, reconnect, and remember God’s goodness during a busy season.

It’s a Sunday backyard BBQ where someone who would never step foot inside a church is invited over by a loving neighbor, handed a hot meal, and hears—for the first time—the good news of Jesus spoken with kindness and sincerity.

It’s the produce donated to a homeless shelter, where hundreds navigating the hardest days of their lives are brought in from the cold, given dignity, warmth, nourishment, and prayer as they’re reminded that they are seen and deeply loved by God.

I may never fully understand the impact that my family's farm has had on the lives of countless strangers on this side of eternity, but I know God is good, and I can't wait to see their smiling faces someday. By the way, have you heard the good news?'

God sees you—your life, your struggles, and your needs. The real question is: what do you see? Where are your eyes fixed when it comes to the resources God has entrusted to you? Are you focused on what you need just to get by, or are you looking at the endless possibilities for life change that can happen when we trust God with what we have—even if we may never fully see the impact on this side of eternity?

- **What sticks out to you when reading 2 Corinthians 9:6-15? Explain.**
- **What do you think 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 and Matthew 6:25-34 have to do with each other? What lessons can we draw from comparing and contrasting them? Explain.**
- **What's holding you back from being farmer number 2?**
- **If your life ended today, would people remember you for what you accumulated or for the eternal stories and kingdom impact you left behind?**
- **"One year from now, how do you hope your answer to this question will change?"**

P R A Y

Take some time as a group to express gratitude for all the amazing ways God has shown up in your life this year.