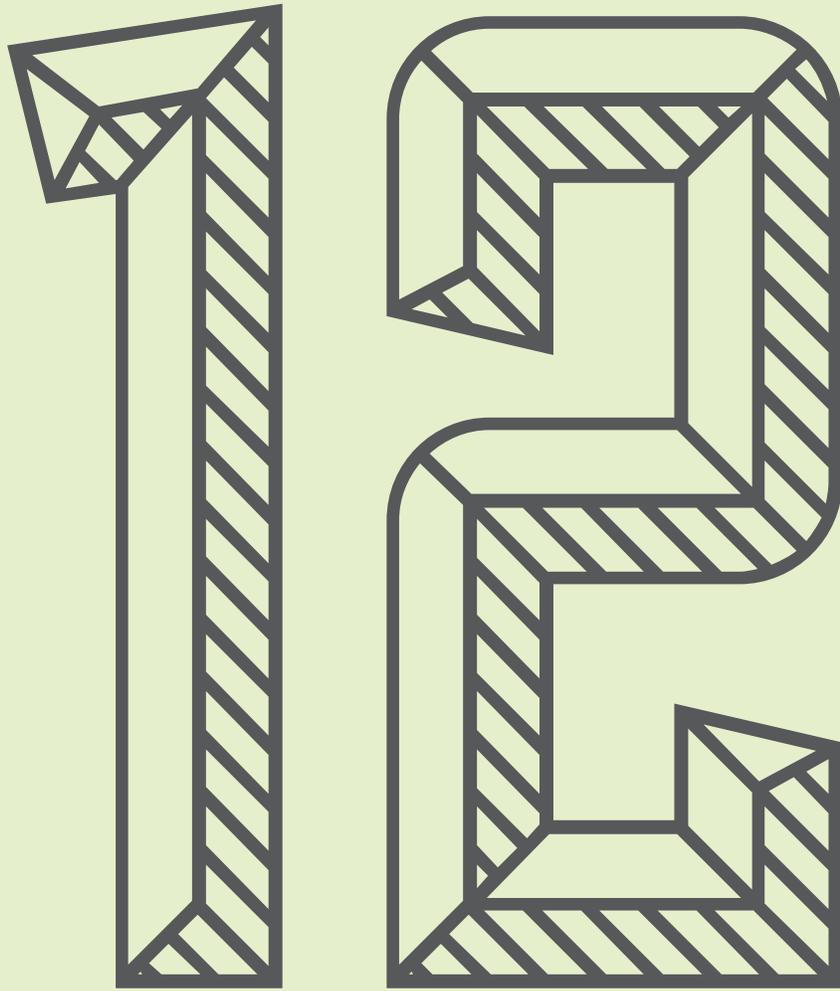


S E S S I O N



JAIL

SOBERING STATISTICS

• Average American owes in excess of ⁽¹⁰³⁾ \$ _____ in installment credit (excluding mortgages, car debt, student loans)

• 13% had balances of more than \$25,000

• Average American spends ⁽¹⁰⁴⁾ _____ % of disposable income on outstanding debts

• Average person receiving social security still owes ⁽¹⁰⁵⁾ _____ years on their mortgage

• ⁽¹⁰⁶⁾ _____ % of graduating college seniors carry credit card debt (before they have a job!)

• Bankruptcy is in the Top 5 life altering events (with divorce, severe illness, disability, death of loved one)

• It destroys your credit report

• It stays with you for life

• Target makes more on ⁽¹⁰⁷⁾ _____ than on the sale of stuff

• 49% of Americans could cover less than one month's expenses if they lost their income

CONCORDANCE FINDINGS

In Scripture, neither borrowing nor lending is ⁽¹⁰⁸⁾ _____

Scripture offers a strong ⁽¹⁰⁹⁾ _____ **about presuming upon the future**

Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit"; whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life: It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that." - **James 4:13-15**

The Bible says it's wicked if we don't repay!

The wicked borrows and does not repay. - **Psalm 37:21a**

Borrowing is discouraged – in fact, every biblical reference to borrowing is neutral or negative

- Do your own concordance study!

CONSEQUENCES OF DEBT

- **Borrowing wastes resources through interest payments**
- **It hinders giving**
- **It removes the** ⁽¹¹⁰⁾ _____ **to harmful things**
- **It encourages impulse buying**
- **It interferes with God's provision**
- **It often** ⁽¹¹¹⁾ _____ **upon the future**

PRINCIPLE

FIVE

Debt ⁽¹¹²⁾ _____

DEBT STEALS:

- (113) _____
- (114) _____
- (115) _____
- (116) _____
- (117) _____
- **My** _____

How Did We Get Here?

The alien who is among you shall rise higher and higher above you, and you shall come down lower and lower. He shall lend to you, but you shall not lend to him; he shall be the head and you shall be the tail. Moreover all these curses shall come upon you and pursue and overtake you, until you are destroyed, because you did not obey the voice of the Lord your God, to keep His commandments and His statutes which He commanded you. - Deuteronomy 28:43-45



THINK ABOUT IT

God is NOT obligated, and He never promises to bail us out of difficulties resulting from our foolish decisions. In fact, you may be struggling with very difficult consequences of your decisions, and He wants you right where you are because He now has your attention!

My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, nor detest His correction; for whom the Lord loves He corrects, just as a father the son in whom he delights. - Proverbs 3:11-12

THE BOTTOM LINE

He who is surety for a stranger will suffer, but one who hates being surety is secure. - Proverbs 11:15

Surety: `arab`; to pledge, exchange, mortgage, engage, occupy, undertake for, give pledges, be or become surety, take on pledge, give in pledge. It is used to describe the practice of giving security for another by striking hands with that person and becoming responsible for money or any object loaned. The Book of Proverbs unhesitatingly warns against the practice.

International Standard Bible Encyclopedia©

We are free to borrow, but there are ⁽¹¹⁸⁾ _____ **when we do**

The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender. - Proverbs 22:7

Servant: `ebed (eh'-bed); a servant, a slave, in bondage

FULL COST OF DEBT

- ⁽¹¹⁹⁾ _____ - **measured by interest rates**
- ⁽¹²⁰⁾ _____ - **measured by impact on relationships, sleep, stress level**
- ⁽¹²¹⁾ _____ - **measured by impact on devotional life (et. al.)**

HOW TO GET OUT OF DEBT? – SPIRITUAL STEPS

- ⁽¹²²⁾ _____
Not because debt is a sin, but the reason you got into debt probably was a sin!

- **Start giving as a priority!**

When we begin to give regularly, we break the hold that discontentment has on our lives.

- **Stop** ⁽¹²³⁾ _____ **your spending and debt habits**

All of us are masters at explaining away and excusing our bad decisions.

- **Don't take on ANY new debt without counsel!**

SESSION 12 BIG IDEAS



Principle five takes no complicated explanation because we universally have experienced the consequences of debt. We can try to fool ourselves into thinking that there's no harm with taking on a bit of debt, but it really is a trap that becomes very difficult to get out from underneath. Ask someone who has worked to become totally debt-free how much freedom and security that achievement gained for them!

1. What do you think is the root cause of our dependence on debt?

2. How will knowing the 3 costs of debt (financial, emotional, spiritual) cause you to look at debt differently?

GOD'S WARNING ABOUT CURSES

²⁶ "Behold, I set before you today a blessing and a curse: ²⁷ "the blessing, if you obey the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you today; ²⁸ "and the curse, if you do not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside from the way which I command you today, to go after other gods which you have not known. -**Deuteronomy 11:26-28**

- Are you constantly treading financial water?
- Are you constantly experiencing "emergencies"?
- Are you struggling to keep a job?

¹⁷ ... that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, ¹⁸ the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints

- **Ephesians 1:17-18**

- Understand that the battle is spiritual

PRAY WITH UNDERSTANDING

Heavenly Father, I know it's not Your will that I constantly struggle with financial challenges. Forgive me for my part in these spiritual battles.

Thank You Jesus for Your saving grace, and for the grace to help me in my weakness.

Holy Spirit, open my eyes to the spirits that afflict me. I renounce any curse that has been passed down to me from my forefathers, and I repent of any thoughts or behaviors that have cursed my offspring. I take authority over and break every curse affecting my finances, my work, and my relationships. In Jesus' name, I command any spirits that are afflicting me to leave. In Jesus' Name.