



- **How would you describe what the American Dream is? Why do so many people pursue it?**

*I know about your suffering and your poverty—but you are rich! Don't be afraid of what you are about to suffer. The Devil will throw some of you into prison and put you to the test...Remain faithful even when facing death, and I will give you the crown of life.*

**Revelation 2:9-10 (NLT)**

- **Why do you think most of us spend more time trying to make ourselves happy instead of making a difference in the world?**

**Key Thoughts:** Traders stop making temporary things a priority. Traders base all decisions on eternal values. Traders remember that life on earth is a test and a trust.

*Friends, this world is not your home, so don't make yourselves cozy in it.*

**1 Peter 2:11 (MSG)**

- **How different do you think your life would be if you started treating your earthly home as a temporary one?**
- **What steps do you need to take to stop making temporary things a priority in your life?**
- **In what ways do you feel discontentment in your life? What do you think causes you discontentment?**

*We fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.*

**2 Corinthians 4:18 (NIV)**

- **What keeps you from placing your entire focus on eternal things? What can you do to remove these distractions?**

*God blesses the people who patiently endure testing. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.*

**James 1:12 (NLT)**

*What do you have that God hasn't given you? And if all you have is from God, why boast as though you have accomplished something on your own?*

**1 Corinthians 4:7 (NLT)**

*And if you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven?*

**Luke 16:11 (NLT)**

- **What are some ways God has tested you? What did you learn from these tests?**
- **How is God testing you right now?**
- **Our money is a test and a trust. How would you grade yourself on the way God has tested you with money? Where do you need improvement?**

*It is God himself who has made us what we are and given us new lives from Christ Jesus; and long ages ago he planned that we should spend these lives in helping others.*

**Ephesians 2:10 (LB)**

- **Our time is a test and trust. How would you grade yourself on the way you handle your time?**
- **What excuses are you using to keep you from serving others? What's your next step to removing those excuses?**

**Final Thought:** What matters is not the duration of your life, but the donation of it. Not how long you lived, but how you lived.

## **1 More Thing –Group Ministry Activity**

God is calling you not to do 1 million things, 1,000 things, or even 100 things. He is calling you to do one more thing. This week do that one more thing with your group by ministering to your community. Feel free to come up with your own project even if it takes a few weeks to complete. If you are unsure of a way to minister to your community, then consider doing the following activity this week with your group.

### **Clean Out The Closets**

This week your group is going to have your own clothing drive. Have your group clean out their closets and find old clothes and shoes that they no longer can wear. Bring these clothes to your group meeting and prepare to take them to a local non-profit organization that serves those in need or to a family that you know is in need.

#### **Tools Needed for Activity:**

1. Old clothes and shoes that you no longer can wear.
2. Vehicles if you plan to take the clothes to your recipients during your group meeting time.

Here are some things to consider while carrying out your ministry activity:

1. Some organizations may not be open during your group's meeting time. If that is the case, then simply use your group time to fold the clothes and box them up. Ask for volunteers to take the clothes to the organization during their operating hours.
2. If you are unsure which organization to take your clothes to,

simply conduct a search on Google for local organizations or consider taking them to one of the more prominent national organizations like Goodwill or Salvation Army.

3. If you are planning to take your clothes to a family or families, call ahead of time to see what types of needs they may have. For example, if their primary need is children's clothing, then tell your group to focus on bringing their kids' clothes that they have outgrown.
4. If you take your clothes to a family or families, take a few moments to visit with them and pray with them. See what other needs they may have that your group can help meet.

#### **Group Wrap Up:**

Take a few moments to discuss your experience and what you may have learned. Pray for those that you ministered to during your activity. Pray for any needs that your group may have.