

INSTRUCTIONS

1. INTRO (CA. 5 MIN)

A question that helps you to tune into the subject of the lunch. Have a round so everyone can answer.

2. BIBLE (CA. 20 MIN)

Read the text out loud once and give everyone time to read for themselves. Use the questions from these three categories to make a conversation.



See: What does the text say?



Think: What does the author want to tell their readers? How would the first readers understand this?



Live: What does the text mean to us today?

3. PRAY (CA. 5 MIN)

Remember that we are different. Some are used to pray out loud, others like to pray in quietness. At the same time this group is a good arena to try out new things. When you pray the prayer of the gathering you can also pray for each other and co-students.

CHALLENGE (CA. 2 MIN)

The challenge of the week is not an exam, but a voluntary practice. Try it out and see what happens!

INTRODUCTION

WHAT

A conversation guide that brings the faith conversation right into daily life.

WHO

Students in the midst of reality.

VISION

A faith that is embodied in life.



2-5 people



30 minutes



6-10 lunches

Find more lagslunches and register your group at nkss.no/lagslunsj

LAGSLUNCH



MAMMON

Mammon is a strange word, and not one we use regularly. It means money and material wealth. In this lagslunsj, we are going to challenge ourselves with what is written in the Bible about mammon, and how we can live life inspired by Jesus when it comes to this theme. Good luck!



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1. TRUE WEALTH

"There is a wealth in God that frees you from all other wealth ... by allowing one to give away the riches Mammon foretells" - O. Skarsaune

Intro: What gives you a sense of security? What scares you?

Bible: Read 1 Tim 6, 6-10 and 17-19

SEE What do you think godliness with austerity means?

THINK Many are misled by the love of money. Find some examples.

LIVE Can one be rich without putting one's hope in wealth? What does it have to say for our lives where we have our safety?

Pray: Thank you God that we are safe in you and in your care. We ask for help in trusting you, and gratitude for the wealth you have blessed us with.

Write a list of 10 things in your life that really make you rich.

2. WE LEAVE HERE EMPTY-HANDED

We come empty-handed to the earth (1 Tim 6,7). At the same time, we are born rich in Norway. How should we relate to Norwegian prosperity?

Intro: Do you think you will die someday? Does it affect how you spend your money?

Bible: Read Luke 12, 13-21

SEE What did the farmer do? Was it so wrong?

THINK Can material wealth be an obstacle to true wealth? Read Matt 6, 19-21.

LIVE What gives us life? How should we manage our wealth? What lifestyle do you want to have when you start making more money?

Pray: God, give us your perspectives on life. Help us manage everything we have in a way that is a blessing to others and to your honor.

Go to your online bank and see what you spent money on in the last month.

3. THE POOR ARE ALWAYS AROUND US

Poverty is as real today as in biblical times. Today we see how we can relate to it.

Intro: "The poor you will always have with you," Jesus said (Matthew 26:11). What do you think about that?

Bible: Read Deuteronomy. 15, 1-11

SEE Deuteronomy. 15 v.11 is the text Jesus quoted. What relation to money and debt is presented in this text?

THINK How do you think the debt waiver order was received? Is other people's hunger a spiritual problem?

LIVE Read about 'Poverty in Norway' on ung.no. How can you deal with this with the same mindset as in today's text?

Pray: We pray for those living in poverty. Help, comfort and provide for them. Help us share what we have.

Suggest something social that costs nothing to your friends.

4. EQUALITY AS AN IDEAL

We look at counsel Paul gave concerning the distribution of goods.

Intro: Have you ever started something with great zeal, but then lost your motivation?

Bible: Read 2 Cor. 8, 7-15

SEE What stood out for you in this text?

THINK Look at v. 10-11. Is it easier to start something than to continue it? How can one continue a good habit one has started?

LIVE Can we introduce ourselves to the situation of those who have little? How can we contribute to more equality in the world?

Pray: God, we pray for all the poor in the world. Help us see the injustice that exists and contribute to more equality. Thank you for loving everyone equally and caring for those who have little.

Support someone who works with the poorest people in the world.

5. CHEERFUL GIVERS

We look at the joy of giving, and the gratitude it creates in us.

Intro: Have you ever been really happy to give something to others? Give examples.

Bible: 2 Cor. 9, 6-15 and 1 Chron. 29, 10-17

SEE What do these texts say about the joy of giving?

THINK Where does our abundance come from? Can it be positive? What is life like for those without abundance?

LIVE The act of praising God it is to give of we have received, helps us to see what we have received ourselves, and lets us be grateful. How does that look for you?

Pray: Thank God for all the good we have received. Help us pass it on to those who need it.

Think of something you want to give to someone and give it to them.

6. THE ABILITY TO GIVE (RELEASE)

Today we will look at the background of giving "tithing," and the value of having a habit of giving faithfully.

Intro: Do you give your money regularly? Why / why not?

Bible: Read about the tithe in Leviticus. 27, 30-34 and about the widow's sacrifice in Mark. 12, 41-44

SEE What do these two texts say about giving?

THINK The widow gave everything she owned, and Jesus praised her for it. How do you think it was received by the audience?

LIVE How much is 10% of your income? What would it do to you if you gave away such an amount?

Pray: God, help us to let go of the security we have in collecting treasures on earth. Thank you for the grace to give what we have.

Be a regular donor to your congregation, Team, or anything else you want to support.

7. MORE THAN MAMMON

Jesus was known for being with tax collectors and sinners and healing the outcasts. We look at what we are giving when we give.

Intro: How do we, in a materially rich society, react in the face of the weak and poor?

Bible: Read Matt. 14, 13-21 and Luke 11, 42

SEE How does Jesus respond to the crowd? What needs does he see?

THINK Is it possible to do as Jesus: show care and give of what we have? What happens if we just do one of the two?

LIVE "Compassion asks us to go where it hurts," writes Henri Nouwen. Are you willing to care even if it will cost you?

Pray: God, give us courage and humility to meet our neighbors in a personal way. Teach us to endure the pain of others.

Next time you see someone asking for money, talk to them!

8. LET US LOVE IN DEEDS

Money can be challenging. If we feel that we do not live up to God's standard, it is easy to become discouraged.

Intro: In the NT, the word heart is used to describe our mindset. Are you calm in heart or do you feel discouraged about "Mammon"?

Bible: Read 1 John. 3, 17-24.

SEE John encourages us to love. How should this be done according to the text?

THINK What do you think "being bold when our hearts don't condemn us" means?

LIVE v. 17 challenges us. Do you know someone in need? How can you find peace of heart in meeting this need?

Pray: God, help us to exercise a faith that is active in love. Thank you for your never-ending love.

Talk to the group about how the Mammon lagslunsi has been for you.