

# Practice Guide for November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2025

Sacred Trusts, pt. 3—The Gift of Treasure

## Suggested Ice Breaker (5 minutes)

When's a time someone's generosity, toward you or someone else, left a lasting impact? What did it reveal about their heart (or yours)?

## Opening Lectio (10 minutes)

Begin with a moment of silence to center on God's presence.

Have someone read Luke 16:10–13 (NIV) slowly while the group listens and reflects:

*“Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own? No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”*

Pause again in silence, then invite someone to pray, asking the Spirit to shape your hearts as entrusted ones; people who receive, cultivate, and return all things to God in love.

## Reflecting On Scripture (15 minutes)

Have someone read Matthew 25:14–23 (the Parable of the Talents) and Mark 10:17–23 (The Rich Young Ruler) aloud for the group.

Take a moment of silence after each reading to notice what stands out.

### Questions for Discussion:

1. What do you notice about the *master's* posture in both stories—one entrusting, one inviting surrender?
2. How do these two scenes together reframe what it means to grow or gain in God's Kingdom?
3. What might Jesus be revealing about the relationship between *trust*, *wealth*, and *worship*?
4. How might faithfulness with what we hold and freedom in what we release both reflect God's heart?

## Community Practice (25 minutes)

Read this reflection aloud:

*The story of Scripture isn't anti-wealth; it's pro-stewardship. The gospel doesn't forbid wealth, but it refuses to romanticize it. It invites those with resources to hold them with open hands, not clenched fists.*

Then read this quote:

*"Simplicity is the only thing that sufficiently reorients our lives so that possessions can be genuinely enjoyed without destroying us." —Richard Foster, Freedom of Simplicity*

Take 3-5 minutes to journal a response to these questions:

1. Where am I tempted to treat money or possessions as *mine* rather than *entrusted*?
2. What would ethical growth look like in my financial life—growth that blesses others, not just myself?
3. Where might God be inviting me to simplify or release something in order to live more freely?
4. Who around me might be affected by economic hardship, and how could I tangibly serve them this week?

Share your answers in groups of two or three.

### Group Discussion:

- How do we discern when financial success aligns with God's Kingdom rather than competing with it?
- What helps you resist fear and live from generosity instead of scarcity?
- How might we practice generosity and solidarity for those who are struggling, especially those losing SNAP benefits or food access this week?

## Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

Close your time by slowly praying this prayer from St. Basil's homily "To the Rich":

*O God, enlarge within us the sense of fellowship  
with all living things, our brothers and sisters to whom You have given the earth as home.  
May we realize that they live not for us alone,  
but for themselves and for You;  
and that they, too, love the sweetness of life and serve You in their place.*

*Teach us to use riches wisely, to share them freely,  
and to trust You completely,  
so that in all things Your Kingdom may come,  
on earth as it is in heaven.*

*Amen.*