

ALIVE

+

FREE

## WEEK 6

These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family, and/or with a group or Bible class.

**Greed is the largest prison of all, and we have all spent time as inmates. Greed respects no one. The virus of greed infects all, regardless of race, class, gender or economic status. But most treat the virus of greed like the common cold, assuming there are more pressing conditions to address. Start identifying the symptoms of greed in your life. We will never be able to say “No” to greed until we have said “Yes” to something bigger.**

**1 GREED LIES *behind most of our “bigger” problems.***

Read **1 Timothy 6:10**. The love of money is the root of all kinds of bondage. What are some of the prisons we get into when we live in bondage to greed (as individuals and as a church)?

**2** Read **Luke 12:15**. Why is greed so hard to recognize in ourselves? What factors contribute to our thinking the greediness is always someone else’s problem?

**3** Greed is not about what you have but about what has you. Read **Ephesians 5:5** and **Colossians 3:5**. Greed is consistently called a form of idolatry. In what ways does greed (the “bigger barn” mentality) displace the things only God can truly provide?

**4 GREED TIES *our hearts to “small stuff.”*** Greed locks us into a small vision or purpose for life. How does greed prevent us from fully engaging in the mission of God?

**5 GREED DIES *when we help others live.*** We will never be able to say “No” to greed unless we have a bigger “Yes.” We were not meant to live in bondage to trivial pursuits. Read **Acts 20:32-35**. The antidote to the virus of greed is generosity. Why is this so? What is the blessing we miss when we are not generous?

**6** Share with each other where the struggle with greed is the strongest in your life. How is God helping you find freedom from the prison of greed? Where do you need to grow in this area?

**ACTION STEP** *Despite all the symptoms, nobody thinks they have the greed virus. This week spend some time reflecting on the following questions to discern how you are doing in relationship to greed — are you showing any of these symptoms: (1) Are you planning life more around finances than God’s mission? (2) Is your mind wandering more to material than spiritual riches and goals? (3) Do you prefer the company of those with much? (4) Does biblical teaching on money make you feel uncomfortable? (5) Do you struggle to rejoice at the prosperity of others? (6) Do you struggle to enjoy what you have without wanting more? This week take a risk and do one unexpected act of radical generosity for someone else and share that with your group next week.*