

**YOU DON'T HAVE WHAT IT TAKES
YOU CAN'T CONTROL THE FUTURE**

The BIG Idea Team, Individual and Family Study Guide

Please take time to run through this study guide with your team, on your own, or with your family so that you can further apply and process the BIG Idea.

Big Idea:

We experience peace with the future by trusting God's plan.

Key Verse:

Read Matthew 6:23-24 (The Message)

What I'm trying to do here is to get you to relax, to not be so preoccupied with getting, so you can respond to God's giving. People who don't know God and the way he works fuss over these things, but you know both God and how he works. Steep your life in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. Don't worry about missing out. You'll find all your everyday human concerns will be met.

The Scoop:

When we think about "the future," it can bring all sorts of emotions. There is often a sense of great anticipation and excitement about both the short-term and long-term future: a holiday, a big vacation, getting married, becoming a parent, moving into adulthood, taking the next career step, etc. But for many of us, one of the strongest emotions that comes with thinking about the future is anxiety. We can do very little to control the future, and its human nature to fear the unknown or things out of our control.

1. Which of these "future fears" do you feel the most right now in your life?
 - a. Fear of someone close to you dying
 - b. Fear of not being financially secure in your retirement
 - c. Fear of nuclear war or some worldwide disaster
 - d. Fear of being abandoned by spouse/close friends/family
 - e. Fear of getting too far into debt or bankruptcy
 - f. Other (name it!)

2. How has bringing your fears to God made a difference in your life? If you haven't brought your fears to God, what keeps you from doing it?

What's Next? (take home/further processing/application)

Which of these practical steps to increase your faith in God about the future, do you most need to practice this week?

- a. Spend more time recognizing and remembering God's provision in your past.
- b. Learn and understand more about what God actually promises to do in your life (through studying the Bible, learning it from others).
- c. Bring your fears to God by spending real time praying to Him about them.
- d. Exercise your faith by taking a risk, by stepping out in faith to do something that scares you and requires you to trust God.
- e. Other