

# LIVING IN A MATERIAL WORLD

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**Key Texts:** Luke 12:15; 1 Timothy 6:17-19

**Introduction:** I like nice things...clothes, cars, watches and houses. (Matthew 19:20-23)

## A. The More Material Goods Virus (MMG)

1. Garden Root to Today's Times (Gen. 2:15-17; 3:6)
2. "American Dream" is Fertile Ground
3. Church as a Host to the MMG Virus (Mark 10:28-30; James 4:2-3)

## B. Determining the Severity of the Infection (James 4)

1. My Prayer Life
2. My Pursuits
3. My Prime Time

## C. The MMG Antidote

1. Adopt God's Perspective (Romans 12:1-2)
2. From Tithing to Generosity (Mal 3:10; Luke 6:38; Rom.11:35-12:1)
3. Beyond Great Social Causes (Galatians 6:9-10; Romans 15:25-26)

## D. The Benefits of the Antidote

1. Christmas and Birthday Joy (Acts 20:33-35)
2. Being Fully Invested in the Greatest Cause Ever (Matt. 16:18, 28:18-20; Lk. 4:18-19)
3. From Here to Eternity (1 Timothy 6:17-19)

## E. Summary & Response

How much is your current limit line regarding your time spent pursuing kingdom expansion affected by the MMG virus? Are you willing to adopt and allow God's antidote to MMG to more fully do its work in your life? Ready to do something radically beneficial for yourself and others?

# TABLETALK STARTERS (For family devotions and Life Group discussions)

1. Not that you "wouldn't do it", but what would be difficult for you to give up, if the Lord spoke directly to you? Career? Possession? Status? Lifestyle?
2. In what ways do you need to be cautious so that MMG virus doesn't spread in your own life?
3. What charities have you previously supported? If you are no longer supporting it or them, why is that?
4. Critique / Compare & Contrast the "American Dream"  
[Anyone, regardless of where they were born or what class they were born into, can attain their own version of success in a society where upward mobility is possible for everyone. The American Dream is achieved through sacrifice, risk-taking and hard work, not by chance.] through the "lens" of the two "great commandments":  
[*"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."* - Matthew 22:36-40]
5. What do you believe God is saying to you regarding this topic of materialism and your own limit line, or something in connection to it?

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