

Small Group Discussion Guide

Is God a Socialist? — Equality, Generosity & Our Resources

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The question “Is God a Socialist?” can easily lead us into a political argument, but Scripture calls us to begin with the most important fact: God is sovereign over all things. God is neither a socialist nor a capitalist, in the modern political sense. Everything belongs to Him, and we are temporary stewards of the time, talent, and treasure He places in our hands.

I. Is God a Socialist?

Read Acts 4:32–5:4 aloud.

Acts 4 describes an early Church united in heart and mind during intense opposition. Their unity produced voluntary generosity as believers shared their resources with those who had genuine needs. Scripture demonstrates that biblical generosity is not forced equality but a willingness to care for genuine needs with wisdom and integrity.

- **How can voluntarily giving change the heart of the giver and the receiver? How is that different when giving is a requirement or done for the approval of others?**
- **Why is it sometimes difficult to distinguish between a genuine need and a want? How can comparison and coveting affect our perspectives?**

II. Biblical Perspectives

A. Generational Wealth Is Not Inappropriate

Read Deuteronomy 8:18, Ecclesiastes 2:26, and 1 Chronicles 29:1–5 aloud.

The Bible does not teach that wealth itself is evil. Money is morally neutral; the question is what we do with it and what place it occupies in our hearts. Scripture reminds us that it is God who gives us the ability to produce wealth. Resources can be received with gratitude and managed responsibly, and it's important to guard our hearts. Instead of believing more money will make us happier, assuming our resources can secure our future, and resenting those who have more, we must never forget that what we call “my money” ultimately belongs to God. Wealth is a tool, but it makes a poor god.

- **What are some of the common deceptions and misconceptions about money and wealth that you have seen in our culture or experienced personally?**

B. Self & Pride

Read 1 Kings 8:20–21, Proverbs 16:18, and Obadiah 1:3–4 aloud.

Scripture consistently warns us that pride can deceive us into believing we are completely self-made. Proverbs reminds us that “pride goes before destruction.” Our abilities, opportunities, time, and resources are gifts entrusted to us. Humility recognizes that we are fully dependent upon God—all that we have is an expression of His grace and mercy toward us—and we are accountable to Him.

- **In what ways can success, possessions, and financial security create pride or the illusion that we are self-sufficient?**

C. Live Generously

Read 2 Corinthians 9:6–8, Ephesians 4:12, and Galatians 5:13 aloud.

Scripture teaches that God loves a cheerful giver and that generosity should flow from a willing heart rather than compulsion. We are not called merely to give money; we are called to be generous with our **time, talents, and treasures**.

- **What would it look like for you to become more generous with your time, talents, or treasures while also practicing wise and responsible stewardship?**

D. Work & Worship

Read Colossians 3:23–24, 2 Thessalonians 3:10, and 1 Timothy 5:9–11 aloud.

Work is also part of biblical stewardship. Colossians tells us to work wholeheartedly, as working for the Lord rather than for people. Work is more than a way to earn money; it can become an act of worship when we recognize Christ as the One we ultimately serve. The Church was called to care for those with genuine needs, while individuals who were able to work were expected to accept responsibility for themselves.

- **How does viewing your work as an act of worship and your resources as belonging to God change the way someone balances personal responsibility, compassion for those in need, and generosity toward others?**

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your Word, for its truth, and for the authority it has in our lives. Thank You for loving us so deeply and for giving Yourself as a sacrifice so that, through Christ, we might be made right in Your sight. Lord, some of us come before You today with significant needs. We ask for Your intervention and Your guidance. Open doors of opportunity and a willingness to do what we can. Lord, we trust You, knowing that You are faithful and that Your plans are good. In Jesus' name, Amen.