





WONDER. DISCOVERY. PASSION. WONDER. DISCOVERY. PASSION. WONDER. DISCOVERY. PASSION. WONDER. DISCOVERY.  
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# THE THIN GREEN LINE(2): MIDDLE SCHOOL SMALL GROUP DIALOG

## WEEK 2: SPEND

**Bottom Line:** Where you spend your time and money is a reflection of how you see God.

**Scripture References:** Matthew 6:19-25; Genesis 3:6; 1 Corinthians 10:23

We are all created to be creatures of wonder and of desire. Sometimes we turn our wonder on creation, and we marvel at our good and mighty God. Sometimes we desire peace in a turbulent situation or comfort for someone who is afflicted. But sometimes our desires go bad. This week your goal is to help students identify the difference between healthy and unhealthy desire, to distinguish between basic needs and potentially dangerous wants. This is the only week of the series we will discuss spending, so go crazy! Keep the discussion active and help students take a really honest look into their own spending habits.

*Create meaningful conversation. Adjust questions as needed, and don't feel like you need to answer all of them.*

1. What is something that you must have? Why do you want it so bad?
2. What is the difference between need and want?
3. What do your current spending habits show you about where your heart is?
4. Which body part does Matthew 6 warn us about, and why? Explain your choice.
  - a. eyes
  - b. mouth
  - c. feet
5. What does it mean when we say that we "serve" our possessions?
6. How do we make sure our purchases and things that get our attention don't rival God in our lives?
7. What is something you learned from the lesson this week?

### CLOSING CHALLENGE:

This week, encourage your students to keep a record of all the money they spend. Then later in the week send them a message asking them to reflect on their spending. You may want to ask them, "What are you investing in?" and "What motivated your purchases?"



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# THE THIN GREEN LINE(3):

## MIDDLE SCHOOL SMALL GROUP DIALOG

### WEEK 3:SAVE

**Bottom Line:** Saving lets you do something more with your money than you can do today.

**Scripture References:** 1 Kings 4:29-30; Proverbs 13:11; 21:5, 20; 2 Peter 2:19; 1 Corinthians 13:11; 2 Corinthians 8:14; 1 John 3:17; Luke 12:16-21; Proverbs 11:28

Ten dollars a week, one night of baby sitting money or a part-time paycheck after taxes doesn't seem like much. And if you're saving up for an iPod, four months probably seems like an eternity. We live in a culture that moves fast. We can get a burger and fries in less than three minutes, and we can download new music in a matter of seconds. Unfortunately, saving takes time. Your goal this week is to help students dialogue about the benefits of saving money. Direct them to notice how patiently saving will set them free and open up possibilities in their future.

*Create meaningful conversation. Adjust questions as needed, and don't feel like you need to answer all of them.*

1. Are you the kind of person who spends or saves? Why?
2. If you had \$100 in your pocket right now, what would you do with it? If you had \$1,000, what would you do with it?
3. What is something big you wish you could afford? Be realistic.
4. Can you think of examples in your life, or in someone else's, where saving would have been better than spending?
5. What do you think about the 80/10/10 rule? Do you remember what it stood for? Do you think you could follow it?
6. If you followed the 80/10/10 rule for a year, do you think your life would be any different? How?
7. What are the benefits of saving, and why? Explain your choice.
  - a. More money for you later (for spending or emergency funds)
  - b. More money to help others later
  - c. Following God's commands
  - d. All of the above
8. What is something you learned from the lesson this week?

### CLOSING CHALLENGE:

As a group, what can you do to give on an ongoing basis? Consider setting up a special fund for just your small group. Make weekly contributions to the fund and periodically do fund raisers to add to the fund (like working for donations to clean yards, baby sit, etc.)

You could use the money to support a Compassion International child ([www.compassion.com](http://www.compassion.com)). Or you could use the money to provide a donation fund for youth group retreats or mission trips. Find something your group is passionate about, and as a group, give to support that cause.