**Show Me The Money Session 3**

**Preparation**

Put up posters

Put out tables and chairs

Hand out 3 marshmallows to each person 5mins before starting.

**Introduction and Welcome**

Tonight is the third of 4 Show Me The Money sessions.

In the first week we showed the movie: Nothing for Mahala.

Last week we looked at Honesty.

Welcome to newcomers and regulars.

This week we are going to look at Thrift.

(Make sure everyone is sitting around and table and groups are of equal sizes)

**Activity:** **Save that marshmallow** (6-8 Min)

Each person was given 3 marshmallows earlier. On your table there are toothpicks. The group that builds the tallest tower will win a prize.

Debrief: If any of you ate any of the marshmallows that you were given you would have been disadvantaged in this activity because you would have had fewer to work with. When we are unwilling to wait for things (or save up for things) we can be really disadvantage us in the long run.

**Introducing Thrift** (10mins): Definition of thrift: Read out the following definitions of thrift:

• Using money and resources carefully and not wastefully

• Being mindful of the future when it comes to spending money

• Delayed gratification, sacrifice and saving for the future

**Enacting Thrift:** In groups you have 3 minutes to come up with a skit or song that reflects your understanding of thrift.

**Movie Clip:** We saw last week that while Axe has been trying to make his mark, he has been living a lavish lifestyle and gets into trouble with loan sharks and the law. He has an expensive car, smart clothes and a town house, none of which he can really afford, and he is getting deeper and deeper into debt. You will see that he is so desperate; he is even willing to lie to get back a TV set he gave to Gogo, so he can sell it to repay some debts. In an alternative ending to the film, Axe arrives at the old-age home and tells Reneilwe he has sold his flashy car and will save up until he can buy another one – one that he can afford.

**Play Scene:** The Story of Axe and Thrift

**Movie Talk (6-8 min)**

1. In the beginning of the film, what does Axe believe about spending money and using his resources?

2. How do his views differ from those of Gogo – what does she believe about spending?

3. Who or what do you think influences the decisions Axe makes? In which ways could he make better decisions when it comes to spending?

4. At the end of the film we see Axe having sold his car and made some lifestyle changes. What lessons do you think Axe has learned?

**Activity:** Use That Paperclip. How many ways can you use a paper clip differently? (6-8 min). In your groups you have 3 minutes to list as many uses for a paper clip as possible. The group with the most ideas will win a prize.

Debrief: Using the paper clip for lots of different uses is an example of what it means to be thrifty. Today we are going to explore what thrift is, what the Bible teaches us about thrift, and how it can make a difference in our lives.

**Thrift Discussions** (14-16 min): We are going to look at what the Bible says about thrift.

1. Read Proverbs 6:6-8

“Lazy people should learn a lesson from the way ants live. They have no leader, chief, or ruler, but they store up their food during the summer, getting ready for winter.”

• Do you think Axe, in the earlier clips, thought much about planning for the future? Give reasons for your answers?

• What lessons could Axe learn from the ant mentioned in this Bible verse?

2. Read Luke 14:28-30

“Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, saying, ‘This person began to build and wasn’t able to finish.’

• Axe got himself into a lot of trouble because of debt and overspending.

• How could Axe’s life have been different if he had taken advice from what Jesus said in this story?

3. Read Matthew 6:19-21 Living Bible (TLB)

“Don’t store up treasures here on earth where they can erode away or may be stolen. Store them in heaven where they will never lose their value and are safe from thieves. If your profits are in heaven, your heart will be there too.”

• Axe was putting too much emphasis on trying to get money and possessions. What do you think motivated him to do this?

4. In Matthew Jesus told the story of a man who was given 5 bags of gold to look after while his master was away. The man made the money work hard and invested the money wisely. When his master returned he gave back 5 extra bags of gold. His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

• What could Axe have learned from this story?

• How can we apply this story in our lives?

5. Turn to someone next to you and share: What are some of your possessions, abilities or talents that, if used more carefully, could make your own life better, or could be used to help other people?

**Thrift Challenge:** Give each young people a pen and a piece of paper on which they can fill out a thrifty resolution (type out and copy this card ahead of time and give them time to complete the card).

This week I will live out the value of thrift by: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

This week I will use my money carefully by: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

This week I will use my time carefully by: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Food For Thought:** Read through the following questions slowly and get your youth to quietly reflect on the answers.

• Am I using what I have: time, pocket money, airtime, talents or things, carefully?

• Am I wasting things, time or talents I have by not using them properly?

• Am I spending my money carefully?

**Closing Prayer**: Dear God, thank you for all the things you give us: our talents, possessions, money and so much more. We ask you to give us the strength to become more thrifty people. Help us not to waste what we have but to put it to good use. Help us to plan well for our futures and to work hard to accomplish all that you want us to. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Next week we will be exploring Diligence!