FIRST WEST | **Week 5 – Wise Saver**

SECTION 30 – GROUP DISCUSSION

3/13
Before we start, I'll read this quick prayer.

God, please be part of this group meeting. Help us to understand your will for our savings, and help us have some fun, too. Amen.

Let's dive in.

4/13
This week, we talked about saving. Here's a quick review, in case you forgot.

There are two types of saving: Short-Term Savings and Long-Term Savings. Long-Term Savings are usually retirement savings.

Short-Term Savings can be further broken down into three categories:

- Emergency Savings: 2% of your gross annual income
- 3-Month Net Savings: three months' worth of your net income
- Replacement Savings: intended to fund large and expensive appliances (or even a new car!) when they break

5/13
The different types of Long-Term Savings are:

Tax-sheltered accounts, including:

- 401(k) and 403(b) plans
- Roth IRAs
- 529 (college savings) plans

Taxable accounts:

- Brokerage accounts

6/13
The all-time best song about saving is:

- ☐ "Save Room for My Love" by John Legend
- ☐ "Someone Saved My Life Tonight" by Elton John
- ☐ "Save Tonight" by Eagle-Eye Cherry
- ☐ "Save the Last Dance for Me" by The Drifters
- ☐ "Saving All My Love for You" by Whitney Houston

7/13
Hopefully everyone completed their Weekly Challenge and drank water all week. Did you do it? How much time did you spend in the bathroom?

What happened? Each person gets 30 seconds to tell the group a refreshing, hydrating story.

For best results, choose a timekeeper for the week who will start the timer each time it's needed.

8/13
Each person take one minute to answer**:**

Growing up, what and how were you taught about saving (or not saving) money? Explain.

9/13
Thanks for volunteering. Please read:

And he said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man produced plentifully, and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry."' But God said to him, "Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God." – Luke 12:15-21

How do these words of Jesus personally apply to your life today?

Group discussion: 6 minutes.

10/13
In your individual work, you answered the question: what's the hardest part about saving (or not saving) money? Maybe money burns a hole in your pocket or maybe you tend toward hoarding…or something else?

And, you identified a step you would take this week toward growing in that area.

Everybody take two minutes to share your answers with the group.

11/13
Everybody grab a scrap piece of paper and pen. Quickly write down an area where you need prayer in your FreedUp journey. You can write what you just shared, if you like. Or something else. Fold up your paper when you're finished.

Someone collect the papers, mix them up and redistribute to the group. (If you're meeting virtually, you can simply swap prayer requests right now…through text, or just tell each other, or maybe email or telepathy, etc.)

Everyone now has someone else's prayer request. Please commit to pray for the person and their request this week. Sweet! Now, before we bid adieu, we have one more task…

12/13
Next week is our last week. Let's celebrate!

Take a few minutes and quickly decide how you will celebrate your final FreedUp group meeting. Maybe it's a full-on potluck dinner, or maybe just chip in for pizza and wings. Maybe it's time to show off your decadent baking skills. Or, one word: tacos. Whatever! Don't overthink it! Just get excited about celebrating your hard work.

13/13
Well done, Party People! Peace out. See you next week!

Don't forget those prayer requests!