16:1-15 Make provision for God's future: use what you have to serve Him instead of yourself.

Copycat tool. Would you like to have this manager working for you, given what he does in v2-7?

If not, why is he commended(!) not only by the master, but also, (it seems?), by Jesus?

Connection tool: How does vv10-12 fit with v13?

(Anti)**Copycat tool:** On what basis are the Pharisees justifying themselves in their own standing before God? How does v16-17, and what Jesus implies they are doing in v18, clarify this?

Growth Group questions Luke 16:1-15

In your preparation, there may be reading guide questions that help with passage observation work.

Pray

Warmup: *What are different approaches to possessions and money you've witnessed in other people? (whether good or bad, how would you summarise their approach?)*

Our passage brings possessions and money into focus as we seek to live for God.
Read Luke 16:1-15

What are your first reactions? *(expect a lot of confusion from 16:8!)*

In verses 1-9, there are clear parts along with confusing parts.
What can we say is clear here? *(take responses)*

- *He's not a great manager! (wasteful)*
- *He's been served notice to finish up, but he has a window of opportunity open, before he hands in his keys and swipe card etc.*
- *He considers his options v3*
- *He determines his plan v4*
- *He carries this plan out v5-7*

What is not being commended in v8, and what IS commended?
(Not commended: his dishonesty. Commended his shrewdness)

Can you put v8 in different words?

What does Jesus want his disciples to learn from this? *(not dishonesty in dealings!!).*

Break into groups(?): How does the main point of v9 connect with what is taught in
V10-12? V13? V14-15?

How does Jesus challenge us in relation to the way we use possessions and money?

How is this personally challenging for you?

Possible prayer: *God: every good thing we have is from you and for you. Help us to be faithful with what we have. That we might be found safe with you in your eternal future, ours through Jesus Christ alone.*

Some principles for interpreting parables (background stuff for GG Leaders)

Principle #1 when interpreting parables, stay on point.

Parables are teaching a main point(s). Don't look to interpret every detail or read in more than is intended. The details are given to bring out the point, not distract us. If the Bible writer wants us to ask a question about the detail, he'll direct us.

An example: was leaving the 99 sheep in the open field good or bad? (not important! What matters is the value of the one)

Principle #2 use what is clear to help interpret what is unclear.

An especially helpful principle when it comes to the shrewd manager. And Luke gives lots of clarity to help us work out just what is being commended.

Principle #3 Bible words have Bible meanings.

Where it's important to know the meaning of the word, the Bible will give us that meaning in context. We don't first run to the Oxford dictionary etc. Shrewd in Luke 16:8 being a good example.