

---

# GOD NEVER SAID THAT.

## Week 3: The Prosperity Gospel



People have a lot to say when it comes to God. God is real. God is not real. Here's what God says. Here's what God thinks. Pop theology has made its way into our worship music, blogging, social media sites, and yes, even sometimes Bible Studies and sermons. This series, we will examine six of the most common forms of pop theology...

and then look to the Scriptures to see what God might say to us instead.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. On Sunday we learned about the the prosperity gospel. Did you struggle with this? Do you think that God's greatest desire is for you to be physically healthy, materially wealthy, and personally happy? Take the time to discuss as a group.
2. *Read Mark 10:17-31.* While "inherit" is a term having to do with receiving rather than earning, notice he also asks, "what must I do," which indicates his earning rather than receiving. As such, how is the rich young man's opening question to Jesus illuminating of his spiritual condition?
3. *Read Deuteronomy 5:6-21.* Jesus offers 6 of the 10 commandments to the rich young man. What does the rich young man say in return about his obedience to these commands? Which commands does Jesus not offer? How does Jesus' eliminating these commands offer a point of the rich young man's struggle?
4. The rich young man goes away sad because he has great wealth. The implication is that his god is money. Returning to question # 1 above, in what ways do you struggle with wealth or material possessions becoming a god in your life? Then encourage and pray for one another.
5. Verses 29-30 of the story of the rich young man/ruler has been used by some proponents of the prosperity gospel (the belief that God's greatest desire is for our wealth/prosperity) to demonstrate that by giving more money, God will return more blessing. Why do you think that proponents of the prosperity gospel point to these verses? Why are they misguided? How might proponents of the prosperity gospel be guilty of the same sin as the rich young man?

### BE THE REVOLUTION

Yes - God provides! No, God's greatest concern isn't the material blessing of our lives.

### RENOVATING THE HEART

You shall have no other gods before me (*Deuteronomy 5:7*).