

News Story Summary

In October of this year, a female off-duty California Highway Patrol (CHP) sergeant was driving her personal vehicle in Concord, California. She noticed two bank deposit bags on the road so she did a U-turn to investigate. Noting that the bags had tire-marks on them, her first thought was that this must be one of those “what would you do?” hidden camera television shows. Upon further investigation, the 20-year CHP veteran discovered the bags were stuffed with 100-dollar bills—over \$120,000!

This off-duty sergeant, who requested her name not be released, notified Concord police, who were able to determine and locate the money's owner. (The money was their life savings.)

The sergeant is quoted as saying: "It was the right thing to do. I am paid to uphold the law and it's my job to set the example, whether I'm working or not. I am happy to hear the rightful owner was identified and that the money has been returned."

She went on to explain part of her reasoning in choosing to do the right thing: “My kids ... were like, 'Mom! What were you thinking?’” [She said] “There was no one on that street after I had come back, nobody would have known. But that's what determines a person's integrity, it's what you do when nobody is looking.”

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the term “CHP sergeant finds, returns \$120K.”)

Focus Attention

Welcome group members and direct their attention to this question you've written on the board: *What would you do if you found \$120,000 on the street...and no one was looking?*

Encourage members to imagine all the things they could do or buy with that amount of money.

Then share the story of the California Highway Patrol sergeant.

Read aloud David Jeremiah's quote (p. 137, *Personal Study Guide*): *We are responsible, whether we like it or not, to live in such a way that people won't be disappointed in Jesus because the Jesus they see is the Jesus they see in us.* Ask: *Do you agree? Why or why not?*

Read aloud the title of today's study and the summary statement: *Live Out the Faith—Believers are to live to a higher standard.* Challenge the group to listen for instructions from Hebrews 13 that show us how to live out our faith by showing brotherly love, by offering hospitality, by honoring the Lord in our marriage, and by the way we handle our finances.

Challenge

Ask: *Does your life reflect the world's standards or God's standard? Explain.*

Comment: *God's presence in our lives should influence how we treat other people. We don't know if the CHP sergeant who found the money in the street is a follower of Christ but we do know that she wanted to be an example to her children and to live her life with integrity.*

Ask: *Do you agree with her statement—"It's what you do when nobody is looking"? Why or why not?*

As the group bow their heads for prayer, challenge them to consider:

- *What choice do you make when displaying brotherly love is not easy?*
- *How do you show hospitality even when it's not convenient?*
- *What safeguards do you have in place that help you honor your marriage vows?*
- *How do you determine what's the wisest use of your money?*
- *How are you living out your faith when nobody is looking?*

After some time for silent reflection, close in prayer.