



Climate Conversations

Money and Investing

Saint Mark's Creation Care Ministry

April 2024



Agenda

- Land Acknowledgement
- Opening Prayer
- Spending and Saving
- Discussion
- Investing and Philanthropy
- Sharing and Q&A
- Closing Prayer

Opening Prayer

Lord God, You are the Creator of the world, and you have placed your people in unique callings in every corner of the globe. We recognize that we are only a small piece of your grand puzzle - help us steward that opportunity well. Help us steward your creation. Help us work with you to bring order to a fallen world.

We want to invest your resources to bring about your kingdom. Show us when and where and how to steward what you've put in our hands. Use us to bring about human flourishing...to redeem what is broken...to proclaim your name in our communities.

In Jesus' name, Amen



Money has an Impact

- Our purchases provide funds to companies for their products & services
- Banks use our deposits, saving or checking, large or small, to lend
 - The credit card we use provides income for bank profits, for lending
 - Lending can be climate unfriendly
- We may invest in stocks or mutual funds, which invest in companies
- 401Ks invest in many types of companies
- The organizations to which we donate use our funds for their purposes



Money Management can match Values

- Values are beliefs we hold and what we feel is deeply important
- We may not reflect on the connection between values and money
- How we spend, save invest and donate affects the environment and climate (and more)
 - Personal impact
 - Product or service provider impact
 - Indirect impact through loans or funding
 - Services by non-profits

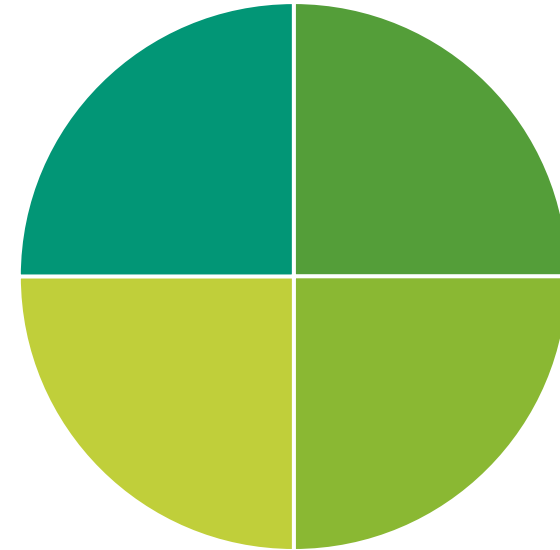


Source: Faith Driven Investor <https://www.faithdriveninvestor.org/book>

We can Match Values and our Money

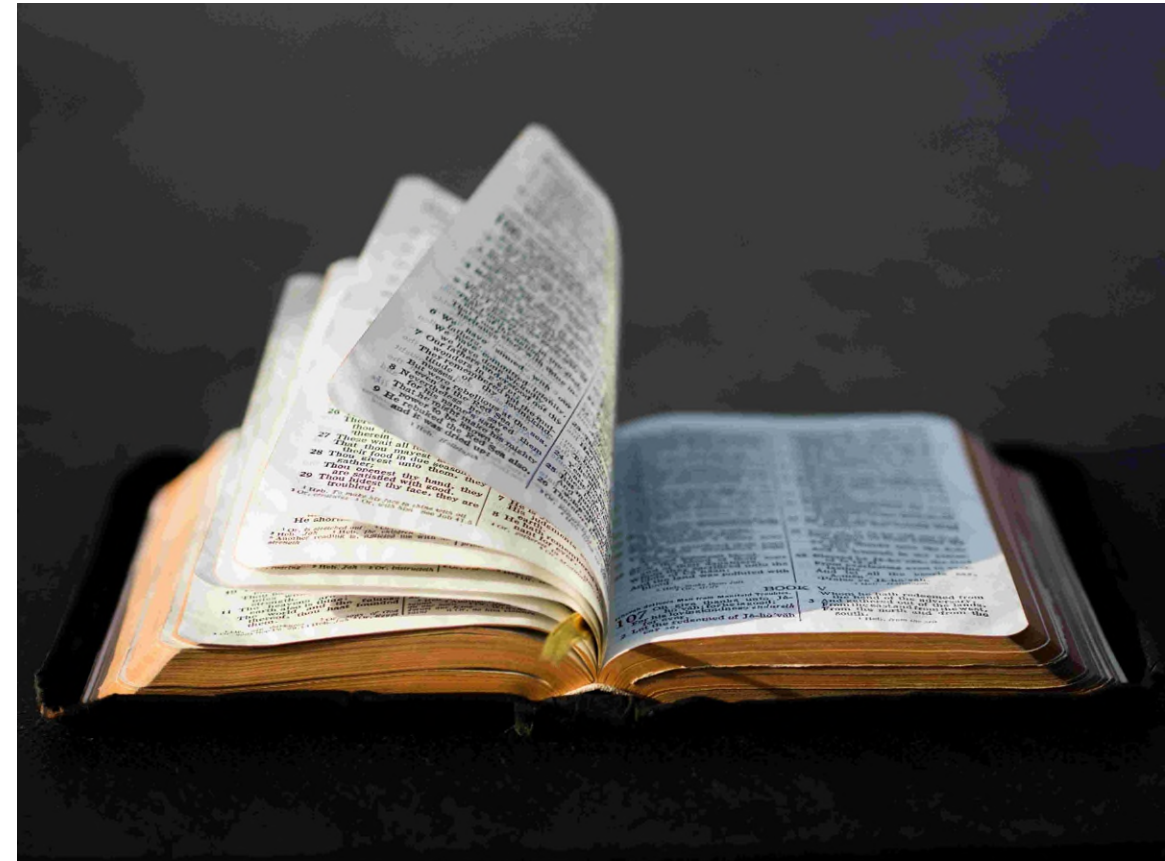
- Our financial life includes:
 - What we buy and how we spend
 - How and where we save
 - How and where we invest
 - How and where we donate
 - Which financial institutions we use
- We will consider how to identify our values and link our values to these financial parts of our lives

Spend, Save, Invest, Donate



The Bible gives Guidance

- 1 Peter 4:10 - Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.
- Luke 16:9 - Use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings
- 1 Timothy 6:17 - As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy.
- Proverbs 3:9-10 - Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first fruits of all you produce



What are your Core Values

- Values are beliefs we hold that are important in our daily lives
 - Following our values gives our life meaning
- What are your guiding principles?
- What gives your life meaning?
- What are your 3 core values?
- Once you identify your values, you can use them to guide your money management

Life Values

Accountability	Efficiency	Honor	Restraint
Accomplishment	Empathy	Humility	Respect
Authenticity	Enjoyment	Independence	Resourcefulness
Acheivement	Enthusiasm	Ideals	Resilience
Adventure	Ethics	Ingenuity	Satisfaction
Affection	Equality	Insight	Security
Beauty	Exploration	Intellect	Self-actualization
Belonging	Fairness	Intuition	Selflessness
Balance	Faith	Joy	Service
Career	Family	Justice	Serenity
Caring	Fidelity	Leadership	Stability
Consciousness	Fitness	Love	Spontaneity
Community	Focus	Loyalty	Strength
Compassion	Freedom	Mastery	Teamwork
Connection	Fun	Merit	Truth
Challenge	Generosiy	Money	Temperance
Commitment	Goals	Nature	Thankfulness
Consistency	Goodness	Openness	Thoughtfulness
Communication	Growth	Order	Tolerance
Creativity	Hard work	Optimism	Tradition
Competition	Health	Opportunity	Trust
Dependability	Helping others	Purpose	Understanding
Determination	Honesty	Preparation	Uniqueness
Discipline	Hope	Prudence	Vision
Diversity	Healing	Reliability	Vitality

Banking

- Our savings and checking account balances affect climate change
 - The 11 largest US banks lend ~19.4% & up to 30% of their portfolios to carbon-intensive industries
 - US\$1,000 in savings equals carbon emissions from flying from NY to Seattle (about 1,350 pounds)
 - Shifting to a climate-responsible bank could reduce emissions by 76%



<https://www.ran.org/press-releases/new-report-canadian-bank-rbc-the-1-financier-of-fossil-fuels-worlds-biggest-banks-continued-to-pour-billions-into-fossil-fuel-expansion>

https://www.bankingonclimatechaos.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/BOCC_2023_vF.pdf

Alternatives for Banking

- Consider a non-carbon-intensive bank
- Consider a fossil-free bank from the Fossil Free Alliance
 - Examples: Amalgamated Bank, Aspiration, Beneficial State Bank, Sound Credit Union
 - They say they will not lend, underwrite or invest for fossil fuel extraction, production, infrastructure
- Consider engaging with the bank you use
 - Look for a no fossil fuel loan pledge
 - Evaluate the New Zero commitment
 - Contact the bank



Credit & Debit Cards give Income to Banks

- A percentage of each purchase goes to the card issuer
 - The merchant also pays a %
- Interest paid on balances also goes to the card issuer
- The issuer, a financial institution, uses revenue to fund activities and pay shareholders
- Bank credit card earnings have almost always been higher than returns on all bank activities ([US Federal Reserve Board](#))
- Mobile tap payments produce 4.93g CO₂e per transaction, the physical card 5.3g and physical cash 10.5g (ATMs, coins, notes)



Eco-Friendly Cards can be Beneficial

- Some banks have eco-friendly cards with:
 - A CO2 calculator for purchases
 - Discounts at eco-friendly businesses
 - Cash back varies depending on the business
 - Banks use funds responsibly

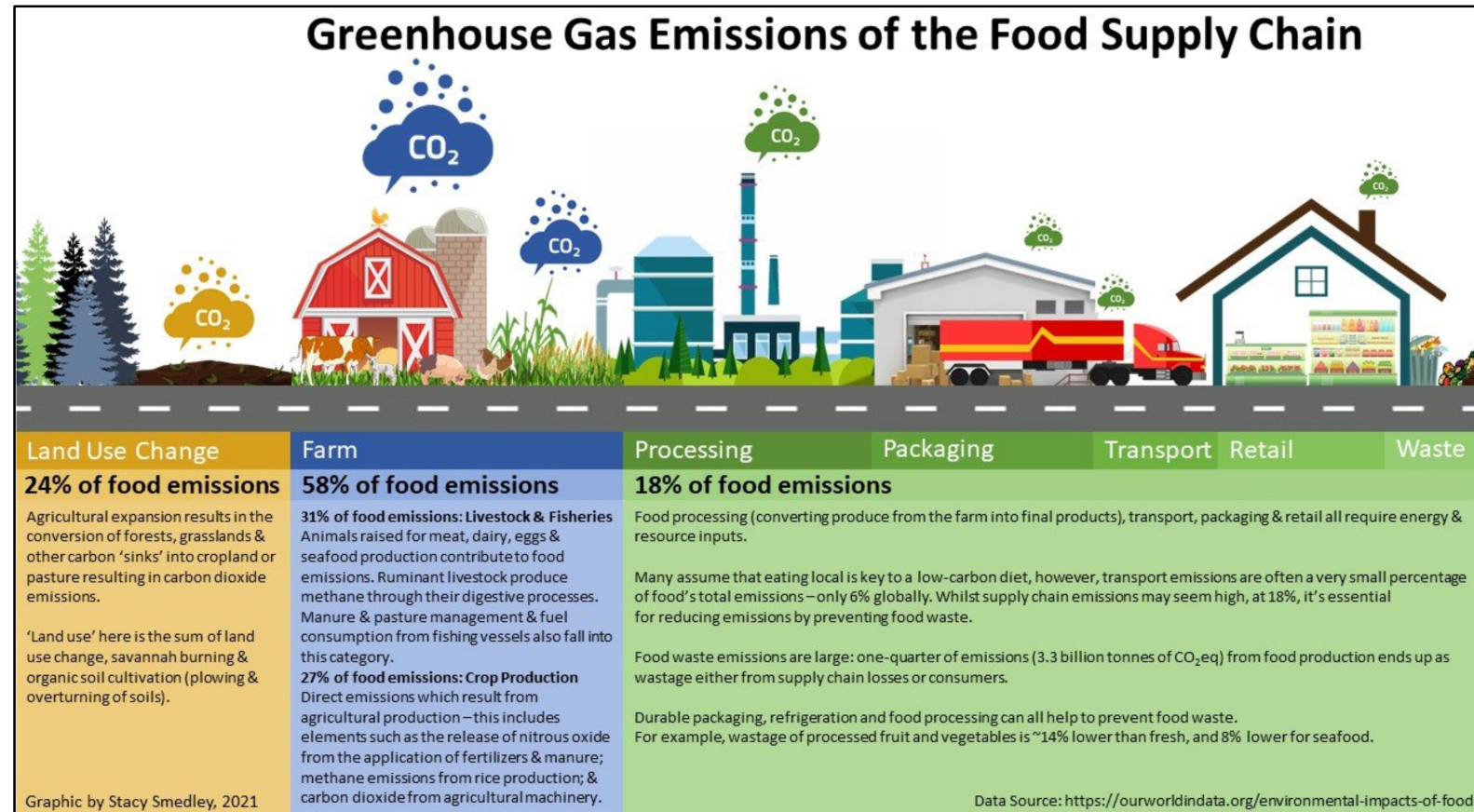
Examples

- Aspiration Bank
 - Personal sustainability score
 - Calculate & mitigate driving impact
 - Round up purchases to plant trees
- FutureCard
 - 5% cash back on green purchases
 - Rewards for reducing emissions



Consumer Products Cause Emissions

- Products & services – food, clothes, devices, transport and more - have emissions from:
 - Production
 - Transport
 - Packaging
 - Retailer
 - Waste
- Our purchasing choices can make a difference



Choose Eco-Friendly Products & Services

- Buying eco-friendly products sends a message to companies
- Choose eco-friendly businesses
 - Online directories
- Reduce packaging & buy local
- Choose more sustainable products
- Choose more eco-friendly products, e.g.
 - Home Depot Eco, Target Circularity
 - Pre-loved -Amazon Renewed, Best Buy
- Consider using software such as [Reewild](#), [Impact Score](#) or [Palau](#)



Discussion & Breakout Session

Questions:

- What changes might you make in banking to reduce your impact?
- What are the difficulties with using or not using a bank or credit card app for purchases?
- How can you change your purchases to send a message or reduce the impact?



Investments have an Impact

- The money you place in funds, stocks, bonds, 401Ks & other investments is invested in companies
 - Actions of companies can help or hurt the environment, climate & people
 - Companies face physical and transition risks
- Your choice, or not choosing, has consequences
- Principles for Responsible Investment



How to Align Investments and Values

- Identify values to govern your investments
- Develop ethical guidelines to align investment decisions and strategies with the common good
- Create an investment policy statement
- Conduct analysis of potential investments and use the analysis to:
 - Select 401Ks or other funds
 - Select individual investments
- Inform advisors of preferences
- Consider voting your shares & engaging companies or boards



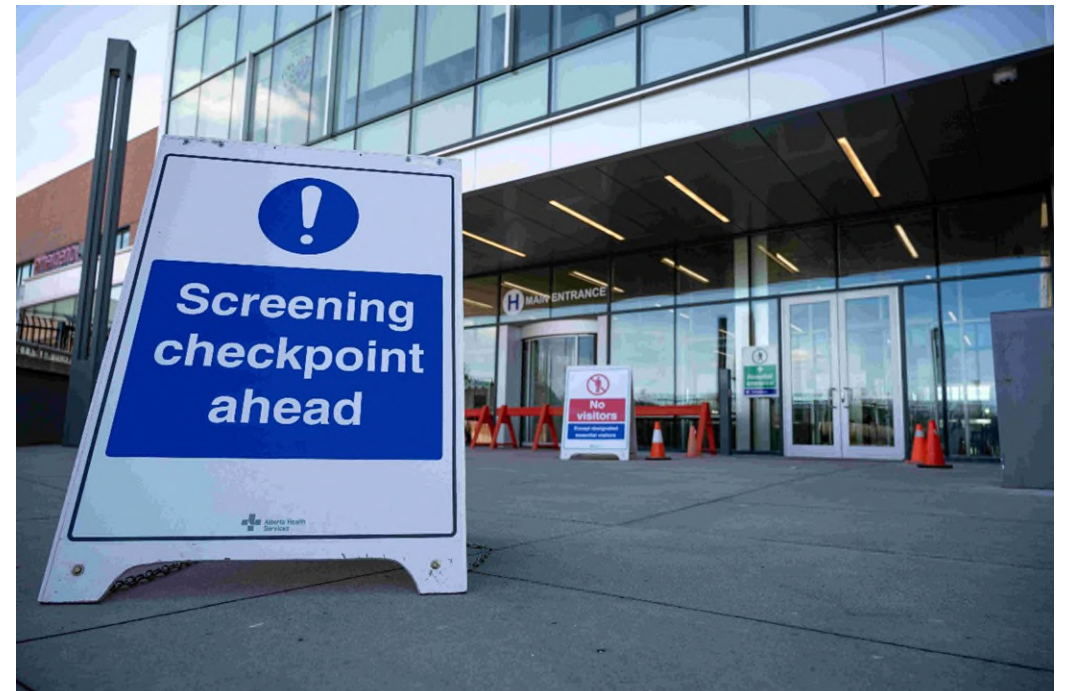
Impact Investing

- Most investments are done for financial returns
- Investing can also be done for impact
 - Impacts can include environmental, social, spiritual effects
- Investments can have a triple bottom line
 - Financial, environmental and social
- Financial returns may be lower or higher, with an impact that may be higher



Practical Options for Investing

- Individual analysis
 - Positive or negative screening
- Stock screening services
 - [Yahoo](#) Finance, Morningstar
- Mutual funds
 - Praxis, Calvert, Eventide, etc.
- Environmentally responsible Financial advisors
 - GreenAmerica.org
 - Kingdom Advisors
- Other options



Our Financial Donations have an Impact

- We receive many requests for donations
- Donating money to support a cause can have social, climate, spiritual or other impacts
- Donations large and small create impact
- Choosing carefully is essential
 - Random or 'street corner' donations
 - Requests from friends
 - Purposeful donations



Aligning Philanthropy with Values & Impact

- Analyze where organizations got donations
 - Charity and financial management
 - [Charity Navigator](#), [Charity Watch](#) and [Wise Giving Alliance](#)
 - Read the organization's materials
 - Outcome, not output
- Choose organizations that align with your values
 - Leverage your personal values analysis for philanthropy too
- Consider organizations where your donation makes the biggest difference
 - Small, underfunded or less-known



Estate Planning

- How you steward your money in the coming years reflects goals and values
- Your will directs allocation of your money
- Considerations for your estate include:
 - The impact you want to have
 - Looking after your family
 - Causes you want to support
 - Problems you want to help solve
 - How you will be remembered
- Your will can reflect your values



Sharing, Discussion and Q&A

Questions

- What are practices you use to align investment with your values?
- How do you select charities or other organizations for donations?
- What changes could you make to improve your investing or philanthropy?



Make a Difference

Behind every stock is a company. Find out what it's doing... Know what you own, and know why you own it – Peter Lynch

Make your portfolio reflect your best vision for our future. Always be thinking ahead. Be optimistic. Think about the world that you want to create, because sure enough your dollars and mine, our capital, is helping shape the world. – David Gardner, Co-Founder, The Motley Fool

Closing Prayer

Good and gracious God,
We thank you for the beauty of the earth and all creation.
Help us to hear always the calling to be a good steward of your gifts, the caretakers of all you have entrusted to us on earth.
Let us always recognize, cherish and enjoy the goodness in all of creation.
Teach us reverence for every person and all living things.
O God, help us to use your gifts wisely and share them generously.
Amen

