



*Discussion Guide*  
**Faith-Driven  
Investing**  
**Business for the Common Good**  
**On-Demand**

Jake introduces his topic with a concept drawn from military strategy, “Commander’s Intent.” The Commander’s Intent is “how the story’s supposed to end.” In other words, it narrows down the singular focus on a successful outcome in a mission, and Jake suggests that this is a helpful way to think about our various forms of capital (money, influence, access, etc.) as we live and work in a fallen world, waiting for the new heavens and new earth (Revelation 21). What is the “Commander’s Intent” for the resources you’ve been given? To put it another way: What does God expect you to accomplish with your capital?

One thing that investing in the market and living a faithful Christian life have in common is that there is no “playbook.” That is to say, unexpected circumstances may force us to improvise, or the complexity of the marketplace might make it impossible to make a perfectly moral investment. If this is the case, what are some possible criteria you can use in evaluating your investment choices? Try to think not only of negative criteria (i.e., principles that dictate what you won’t invest in), but also positive criteria (i.e., what kind of businesses do you want to support? Which companies are consistent with God’s mission to make all things new).

We tend to think of investing as a zero-sum game. A “good investment” will make an excellent return and a “bad investment” makes only a modest return or may even lose money. But as Jake puts it, for the Christian there are “multiple bottom lines” because God is a God of abundance and not of scarcity. What “bottom lines” are important to you as an investor, beyond a financial return?

Jake challenges us to think in terms of “holistic stewardship,” which includes stewardship over our capital, which is the same thing as influence, since “capital gives us a seat at the table.” How would it change your approach to your investing to think of it as stewardship rather than ownership? How can you steward not only your money, but also the influence your money provides you, for the common good?