

***Economics: A Christian Worldview* – Normal Economics or God at Work? – Part 1**

(TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS/KEY)

Purpose

Students think about God’s miraculous provision and balance that with human responsibility.

Time

10-15 minutes

Instructions

1. Print a copy of Page 2 for each student and hand out.
2. Read the instructions together.
3. Give individuals 6-8 minutes to answer, then discuss as a class.
4. Ask debrief questions.

Key (Some Are Debatable; Let Students Discuss!)

1. **A — Normal Economics**
Study → performance → scholarship.
2. **A — Normal Economics**
Saving and patience produce predictable results.
3. **D — Presumption**
Scripture commands work (2 Thess. 3:10).
4. **C — Clearly Miraculous Provision**
Precise timing and anonymity suggest direct providence beyond normal planning.
5. **B — God Working Through Normal Means**
Harvest still followed planting; God used ordinary structures.
6. **B — God Working Through Normal Means**
Generosity within normal economy; trust involved but not supernatural override necessarily.
7. **D — Presumption / Manipulation**
Faith should not pressure others emotionally.
8. **B — God Working Through Normal Means**
Diligence + prayer within normal market process.
9. **D — Presumption**
Claiming divine instruction without wisdom or responsibility.
10. **A — Normal Economics**
Insurance operates contractually; surprise doesn’t equal miracle.

Debrief Questions (Answers Will Vary!)

1. Which category was hardest to identify?
2. Where does faith become laziness?
3. Where does planning become self-reliance?
4. Why does Scripture command work even though God provides?

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Label each scenario below...

A – Normal Economics (ordinary cause and effect: work → income → result)

B – God Working Through Normal Means (ordinary economic activity, but blessed by God)

C – Clearly Miraculous Provision (provision outside normal economic explanation)

D – Presumption/Testing God (irresponsible behavior presented as faith)

1. A student studies hard and earns a scholarship.
2. A family saves faithfully for years and buys a home.
3. A man refuses to work because “God will provide somehow.”
4. A missionary receives an anonymous gift covering exactly the rent due that day.
5. A farmer plants late, but still receives an unusually strong harvest after praying for rain.
6. A woman gives generously though she is unsure how her own bill will be paid.
7. A church member publicly announces his financial crisis, hoping someone will step in.
8. A business owner works diligently, prays for wisdom, and grows steadily over time.
9. A person quits a job impulsively, claiming “God told me to,” without a plan.
10. A family unexpectedly receives an insurance check they had forgotten about.

