

# ***Economics: A Christian Worldview* – Normal Economics or God at Work? – Part 2**

## **(TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS/KEY)**

### **Purpose**

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

### **Time**

15-20 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 in pairs/groups, then discuss as a class.

### **Key (Some Are Debatable; Let Students Discuss!)**

1. **A — Normal Economics**  
Predictable investment returns.
2. **D — Testing God (Possibly)**  
One view is that this is rejecting legitimate means God provides, but it’s possible that God has spoken to this believer to indicate that He will heal him.
3. **C (or B depending on tone)**  
If described as truly inexplicable, classify as C; if stretching budget wisely, could be B.  
(Allow discussion.)
4. **A — Normal Economics**  
Networking and opportunity.
5. **B — God Working Through Normal Means**  
Providence through ordinary channels.
6. **D — Coercive Spiritual Pressure**  
Not cheerful giving (2 Cor. 9:7).
7. **A — Normal Economics**  
Skill produces reputation.
8. **B — God Working Through Normal Means**  
Prayer + work together (Matthew 6 in balance).
9. **A (with foolish decision)**  
Loss through gambling is predictable consequence.
10. **C — Clearly Miraculous Provision**  
Precise alignment beyond planning; strong providential element.

### **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 man invests carefully and earns consistent returns.
2. A Christian refuses medical treatment, saying, “If God wants me healed, He’ll heal me.”
3. A widow’s pantry seems to stretch further than expected during a hard month.
4. A college graduate networks wisely and secures employment.
5. A believer gives secretly and later finds unexpected provision in a different form.
6. A pastor pressures wealthy members to give by warning them of God’s judgment.
7. A carpenter works skillfully and builds a strong reputation in town.
8. A family prays for daily bread, but also works long hours to provide it.
9. A gambler loses money and says, “God must be teaching me something.”
10. A church prays for funds to repair the roof, and a storm insurance settlement covers it entirely.



**Discuss in pairs/groups when you’ve finished!**