

Growth Group Discussion Guide

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Read I Kings 17:8-16. To give or not to give that was the question. The widow responded by trusting God with her little, and that made the difference between life and death. Explain the principle of giving you are able to glean from this passage of scripture. What to you are the key phrases in verse 13? How do these key phrases impact your giving? Would you have shared your last meal knowing you had no other means to get food? The widow was a fearless giver. What does fearless giving say about faith? How would you describe yourself as a giver? If you are not there yet, what would it take for you to become a fearless giver?

Read Proverbs 3:9-10. Our giving speaks volumes about the condition of our hearts. What specifically does your giving say about your heart? What is your response to the idea that giving according to God's standard puts you in line for God's blessings? Why do you think God requests your first fruits?

Read Ex 35:4-9, 20-29. Partnering with God! What an amazing opportunity! Through their giving the Israelites were able to partner with God in His works here on earth. Share how you feel about the opportunity to partner with God in His work. Identify the verse which tells you that no one was excluded from giving. Discuss reasons why a hundred percent participation is important. How did the Israelites' giving live on and on? Tell five ways that your giving to your church will live on and on.

Read Matt 6:19-20. Too often we labor long and hard building castles in the sand-castles doomed to be swept away by the first evening tide. And so goes our earthly treasures!! Explain how 'treasures' in heaven keep on living. What kind of material possessions do you put the most emphasis on? What specific earthly possessions are you willing to give up in order to increase your heavenly treasures?

Read 2 Cor 9:6-12. What a blessing to be able to invest in that which is eternal. Only God knows the countless souls which will come to Christ because of our sowing. Sow generously! Reap bountifully! Give five examples of reaping other than monetary. Explain how reaping of this nature connects to 'giving is living'. What role does God play in 'giving' decisions from the heart? Share how God deals with you in your giving. What assurances does a sower have from God? Tell why you as a sower will not suffer/ lack, even in a weak economy.

Taking It Home: How Will I Apply It? Identify two earthly possessions you will give up in order to increase your heavenly treasures. Pray and ask God to give you the strength to follow through.

GIVING IS LIVING SERIES

"Think It"

Mal. 3: 10

- I. The tithe is a way to HONOR GOD with MONEY and it represents 10%. *Lev. 27:30*
- II. The tithe represents me giving God MY FIRST and MY BEST.
- III. The tithe can cause some TENSION in my life.
- IV. The tithe places my money at GOD'S DISPOSAL TO BUILD HIS KINGDOM.

"He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose." - Jim Elliot

