

**Give**  
Next Steps  
February 21, 2022

**OPENING PRAYER:**

Gracious God, You are ever more ready to give than we are to receive. You bless us richly with love that knows no bounds and with peace that passes all understanding. Yet we are often convinced that we may have greater gifts. Failing to trust Your goodness, we turn elsewhere for love, seeking solace from our reputations, our image or our possessions. We hope to find peace behind closed doors, protected by our sense of security. Even in our best efforts, we come up short; forgive us. Loving Savior, Prince of Peace, teach us once again to follow You. Show us how to drink deeply from God's well of abundance, that we might trust Your divine ways. Strengthen us to live joyfully as Your disciples. Amen.

**BREAKING THE ICE:**

- Jesus talked about wealth/money 66% of the time. Why do you believe He talked about this topic so often?

**WRESTLING WITH THE WORD:<sup>1</sup>**

As we GROW in our knowledge and love of God, we then are spurred in our discipleship to GIVE to others and to GIVE to God of our financial resources. This lesson focuses on the scriptures command to GIVE to bring about the Kingdom of God. The sacrifice and faith behind the giving is what matters. Read Mark 12:41-44.

- What do you think about this parable?
- What do you think motivated the widow to give all she had?
- What was Jesus trying to teach the disciples?
- What does this story teach you about the type of gift that pleases Christ?

Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-16.

- What do you make of the 'sowing and reaping' imagery that Paul uses in the first few verses?
- How is giving contagious? How does it reflect God's grace?
- Why is being able to receive also important (v. 12)?
- What have you reaped by being generous to others?
- How can God's promise (v. 8) enable you to be more generous?
- How do generosity and financial planning and responsibility fit together?

**NEXT STEPS:**

- Figure out your current level of giving and the percentage of your income. Spend time in prayer to listen to God's moving you in generosity.
- Part of being generous is financial planning. Review your budget (create one if you do not have one), consider where you can be more intentional in your spending to be more generous to God?
- Consider reading: any book by Dave Ramsey or Larry Burkett, *Enough* by Adam Hamilton, *Financial Parenting* by Larry Burkett & Rick Osbourne, Mike Slaughter's *Upside Living in a Downside Economy* or *Money Matters*.

**PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:**

Lord, teach me to be generous.  
Teach me to serve you as you deserve;  
to give and not to count the cost,  
to fight and not to heed the wounds,  
to toil and not to seek for rest,  
to labor and not to ask for reward,  
save that of knowing that I do your will.  
-St. Ignatius of Loyola

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<sup>1</sup>Adapted from *The Serendipity Bible* (Zondervan: Grand Rapids, 1998)