

GIVING FROM GOD'S PERSPECTIVE

Small Group Leader's Guide – Lesson Two



BEFORE THE LESSON:

- Each member of the group should be given the participant's guide for the upcoming session.
- Each member should be asked to read chapters 4-6 in the book and complete the questions in the participants guide. (As you complete the questions yourself, be prepared to share your own notes, to help the group open up to discussion)
- Pray for your leadership of this group. Pray for the members who will attend your group.
- Remember that this topic deals with finances and financial choices. Make it clear to the group that we will not be discussing personal finances, but rather reviewing scripture to understand God's perspective on the gifts we give.
- This study is probably unlike any study of financial giving you and your group has experienced. Expect to find clarity, freedom, and a new perspective on gifts! The focus is on what the Bible actually reveals about giving.

PRAYER TIME:

- Pray for an open heart to truth from God's Word
- Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal truth and bring understanding
- Pray for each member to learn something from this study that will transform their perspective and actions

INTRODUCTION:

- If you gave a financial gift, or any kind of gift this week, how did this study change your perspective?
- What stood out to you this week?

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? DISCUSSION

How have you determined how much to give to the Lord in the past? Where did your standard come from?

Have you ever felt challenged about your giving standard? Why or why not?

Do you consider your giving as an act of *obedience* because God *commands* it or as an act of *worship* because God *deserves* it? (Do not aim for a “right or wrong” answer. Both views are acceptable. Allow group members to discuss it.)

Do you think there is or should be a more specific, “one-size-fits-all” standard for giving to God? What are the advantages or disadvantages?

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? DISCUSSION – CHAPTER 5 - A TWO PERCENT PERSPECTIVE (continued)

⚠ Depending on what the members in your group have been taught about giving, this chapter may seem very easy or very difficult. Keep an open heart and be sensitive as you lead this session. Keep in mind that what is most important is what does God reveals to us in His Word.

Were you surprised that of all the verses on gifts and giving in the Bible the tithe is only mentioned 2% of the time? (See “The Gift Box”, free PDF E-Paper at AcceptableGift.org)

If we use tithing, or 10%, as a standard, what is the standard for? All giving? To be a good Christian? Is it the minimum? The maximum?

Have you ever had the questions that Jeff mentions on pages 66-67 about tithing? Why do you think we have those questions?

If God really does desire for us to give based on our relationship with Him and not from an across-the-board giving standard like 10%, how does that make you feel? Unsettled? Nervous? Excited? Challenged?

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? DISCUSSION – CHAPTER 5 - A TWO PERCENT PERSPECTIVE (continued)

This does not mean personal standards are not needed.

- Look up and read 1 Corinthians 16:1-2.
- What are some benefits of a personal giving standard – to YOU?
- How do OTHERS benefit from a committed standard?
- How might they help us give an “amount that matters”?
- Do you have a personal giving standard for yourself or family?

DISCUSSION – BRINGING IT HOME

To close, let's go back to 2 Corinthians 9:7

Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. *2 Corinthians 9:7 (NASB)*

- Key – God desires for giving to be a part of our relationship with Him
- Key – God allows us to determine the amount we give
- Key – God does prompt our hearts to help us determine our gifts
- Key – Personal giving standards help us give in a way that matters to God

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NOTES:

NEXT SESSION PREPARATION

- Read chapter 6
- Complete the participant guide questions
- Pray for other group members
- Be on time for session 3
- Be ready to participate in the discussions