GIVING FROM GOD'S PERSPECTIVE

Small Group Participant's Guide – Lesson Two



BEFORE THE LESSON:

- Pray for God to open your heart to the truth revealed in His Word and for other group members
- Read chapters 4-5 in the book, *Plastic Donuts*, and complete the following questions.
- Please note that your answers do not have to be lengthy, but feel free to elaborate in areas that are most meaningful to you. Also, be prepared to share about how this material is impacting your perspective on giving.

2 DISCUSSION – CHAPTER 4 - THERE ARE NO RULES

Does the Bible command us to pray? To Fast? To Worship?

- How many times a day should we pray? (Daniel prayed 3, Why?)
- How often should we fast? How long? (Moses did for 40 days, Daniel for 21days, Why?)
- How often should we worship? (Once per week?? David praised God 7 times per day.)

Why do you think God does not set standards for these and other things?

Why would we expect God to handle giving any differently?







OISCUSSION - CHAPTER 4 - THERE ARE NO RULES (continued)

Did you know that the Israelites in the Old Testament had many offerings where they determined what and how much to bring? (See Deuteronomy 12:6,11 for a partial list of the various gifts they were to bring).

- Were they commanded to give?
- Did God tell them what exactly how much to bring/give?
- How do you know how much to give?

Reference the chart on page 51 of *Plastic Donuts*. Does it surprise you that in half of the offerings the Children of Israel gave, they determined what to bring?

Look up and read 2 Corinthians 9:7 - What does Paul say about how much the Corinthians were to give in the offering?

When you think about receiving a gift from your spouse or someone special in your life...

- Would you rather just tell them what to get and receive just what you asked for? Or, would you prefer for them to select a gift based on how well they know you, pick something that they think is perfect for you, a complete surprise?
- How would you feel opening such a gift?
- How would you feel giving such a gift?





OISCUSSION - CHAPTER 4 - THERE ARE NO RULES (continued)

Look up and read Luke 19:5-8

- How did Zaccheus decide to give 50%?
- Could it have been in response to the salvation Jesus had given him that day?
- Do you think Jesus had set that standard in their short conversation?
- How do you think that made Jesus feel?

Look up and read Exodus 25:2

- Has your heart ever been stirred or prompted to give? Meet a need? Just bless someone else?
- Did you recognize those as promptings from the Lord?
- If you responded to the prompt how do you think that made God feel?
- Does it make sense to you that God says "you determine the amount – not Me?"





OISCUSSION – CHAPTER 5 - A TWO PERCENT PERSPECTIVE

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 and across-the-board giving standard like 10%, how does that make you feel? Unsettled? Nervous? Excited? Challenged?	

Spend a moment just meditating on the following verse:

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)*

NEXT SESSION PREPARATION

- Read chapter 6 in *Plastic Donuts*
- Complete the participant guide questions
- The next time you give, consider these truths

