

GIVING FROM GOD'S PERSPECTIVE

Small Group Participant's Guide – Lesson Three



BEFORE THE LESSON:

- Pray for God to open your heart to the truth revealed in His Word and for other group members
- Read chapter 6 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.

? DISCUSSION – CHAPTER 6: BECAUSE I HAVE THE ABILITY

Look up and read 2 Corinthians 8:11-12

- How did Paul say these early Believers were to determine the amount of their gift?
- Would this be the same amount or same percentage for everyone?
- What do you think it means to give according to your ability?
- Is giving according to our ability found anywhere else in Scripture?

Look up and read Acts 11:29

- How did the first church determine the amount to give?

Look up and read Mark 12:43-44

- How pleased was Jesus with the amount the widow gave?
- How could she have put in more than everyone else since her amount was less than everyone else's?

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? DISCUSSION – CHAPTER 6: BECAUSE I HAVE THE ABILITY (continued)

Look up and read Deuteronomy 16:10, 17

- How were they to determine what to bring for an offering?

Let’s consider for a moment the right perspective for giving from our ability and where our ability really comes from.

Consider the following passages when God’s people gave according to their ability?

- Exodus 35:4-29 and 36:3-7: How much was the offering for the Lord? (more than was needed)
- Acts 2:43-45: How were everyone’s needs met? (everyone gave and shared)
- Philippians 4:18: How much did Paul receive in the offering? (more than he needed)
- Corinthians 8:13-15: What was the outcome Paul had in mind if the Corinthians gave based on ability?
- Could it be that if everyone gave according to their abilities – like in these verses – God’s objectives could be met throughout the entire world? No hunger? No lack of basic needs? Spread of the Gospel?

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? DISCUSSION – CHAPTER 6: BECAUSE I HAVE THE ABILITY (continued)

What if you have made poor financial decisions in the past or encountered a financially devastating situation and your ability seems limited, what do you think God expects of your gifts?

Look up and read Mark 12:41-44

- Was it the size of the gift or the ability of the woman that pleased Jesus?
- Did she give from her ability even though it was small?
- Do you feel a tension in trying to determine what is your ability? To know how much is acceptable to God? Is that a good or bad thing?

NEXT SESSION PREPARATION

- Read chapters 7-8 in *Plastic Donuts*
- Complete the participant guide questions
- The next time you give, consider these truths