

MAIN IDEA

Include us! God, we will see your work, obey you and give purposefully for your glory.

MAIN APPLICATIONS

- We want people to give biblically - when we see what God is doing, we give according to means, then above and beyond as God would allow.
- Move our people to a place of generous stewardship.



This Thanksgiving week, we are providing three devotionals to Life Group members to continue the application of Sunday's sermon. Each day there is a section of Scripture to read, principles drawn from that passage, and personal application questions. Take time to pray, read the text, and journal your responses.

PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK :

1. God, I want to be included in the work you are doing. Help me to obey your Word and steward what you have given me for your glory.
2. God, thank you for your grace abounding to me. I confess that I am quick to dismiss your steadfast character by not trusting your faithfulness or seeing how deeply your grace impacts me every day. Christ's work on the cross has forever changed me; Spirit convict and sanctify me so that my desires would reflect yours.
3. God, I desire to steward what you have generously provided me for your glory and the magnification of Christ. All that I have is because of you; show me how I can participate in your mission as a faithful steward.

DAY 1

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READ 2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-15

PRINCIPLES :

- Our giving is characterized first and foremost by our submission to the Lord, and then to His work (v5).
- Giving is a reflection of the work of Christ in the gospel (v9).
- We give out of what has been entrusted to us. Giving should not presume upon the Lord but be out of what the Lord provides (v12,15).
- Giving is a reflection of the work of Christ for the growth of his church and the supplying of needs (v14).

PERSONAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS :

1. Paul states that the members of the Macedonian church submit first and foremost to the Lord before giving. Why is it important that we first submit to the Lord when it comes to our finances and generosity?
2. How would you describe your relationship with money? What feelings are brought up? How does your submission to the Lord change how you view and feel about money?
3. How does your current giving reflect and imitate Christ and the transforming work of the gospel in your life?
4. What is your attitude towards giving to the Lord and His Church? What heart change needs to take place for you to get to a place of generous stewardship?

DAY 2

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READ 2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-15

PRINCIPLES :

- Giving should be done out of a cheerful heart that echoes a true delight in Christ, not out of compulsion or religiosity (v7).
- Giving is a response of thankfulness to a God who has generously supplied his grace to undeserving sinners (v8).
- Generosity is evidence of the Spirit's work. God's inexpressible gift of grace should lead us to unselfish, sacrificial giving (v9-11).
- Our love for others, including the giving of finances, stems out of a love for and delight in God (v13-14).

PERSONAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS :

1. Heartless obedience is disobedience. What does cheerful and willing obedience look like in your life? What does stewardship look like for your finances to echo your delight in Christ?
2. Paul reminds the Corinthians and us that generous giving is a response to the inexpressible grace of God. Take time to meditate on the generous supply of God's grace to you. List the many ways God has made His grace abound to you. How has God given you more than enough? How do you view God's gift of grace?
3. Ultimately, everything we have belongs to the Lord and it's His provision to us. How should we steward our resources for the glory of the Lord? What does this look like for you as our church continues to multiply disciples and multiply churches?
4. Make a list: I am thankful for the grace of God in my life in this way...



DAY 3

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READ 1 JOHN 3:16-18 & LUKE 21:1-4

PRINCIPLES :

1 John 3:16-18

- The greatest demonstration of love is the work of Jesus Christ on the Cross (v16).
- We must live out gospel transformation, we cannot simply affirm what is true and good. We must live in active obedience (v18).

Luke 21:1-4

- Giving is characterized by sacrifice and heartfelt submission to the Lord.
- Jesus knows our heart and motivation behind our stewardship.

PERSONAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS :

1. How is Christ's love for you fully demonstrated at the Cross?
2. In what ways is your stewardship a direct response to God's boundless grace in your life?
3. God doesn't just call us to give when there is abundance, rather consistently out of a heart of obedience. Does your giving reflect your heart and submission to the Lord? Give examples and be specific!

