

**BIBLE BASICS ON**

# **GIVING**

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**Meeting ONE: Zoom Out**  
**Meeting TWO: Zoom In**  
**Meeting THREE: Practice**

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# MEETING ONE: ZOOM OUT

The Bible contains about 500 verses on prayer, 500 verses on faith, and a staggering 2,000 on money and finances. To God, our money isn't a separate or secondary issue. It is front and center, attached to our hearts, and worth talking about. So let's zoom out to look at what the Bible says about financial giving.

## GENESIS 1:27-31

Based on these verses and what you know of Genesis 1-2, would you say God is more on the stingy side? Or generous side?

## GENESIS 14:17-24

What did Melchizedek bring with him to his meeting with Abram? What does this remind you of?

How much did Abram give to Melchizedek?

## 1 CHRONICLES 29:14

How did David understand giving in light of God's ownership?

## PROVERBS 3:9-10

What do you think the "firstfruits" were for the original readers of Proverbs?

## PROVERBS 11:24-25

When Solomon considered general patterns of life, what did he notice about people who are generous?

## MALACHI 3:10-12

What surprises you most about what God says to his people in this passage?

## **MATTHEW 6:19-21**

What surprises you most about what Jesus says about our treasure and our heart in this passage?

## **LUKE 12:13-21**

What surprises you most about this parable Jesus tells?

## **LUKE 12:32-34**

What truth in verse 32 motivates the generosity of verse 33?

## **LUKE 21:1-4**

What did Jesus notice about the poor widow's giving?

## **ACTS 20:35**

How do Jesus' words here feel counterintuitive?

## **1 TIMOTHY 6:17-19**

What should Timothy teach rich people?

## **PHILIPPIANS 4:19-20**

What promise does God give us when we consider giving generously?

## **WHEN YOU ZOOM OUT AND TAKE IN THE SCOPE OF THE BIBLE'S TEACHING ON GIVING...**

what stands out to you?

what questions do you have that are unanswered?

what challenges you the most in real life?

# MEETING TWO: ZOOM IN

Among the 2,000 Bible verses on money and giving, the 39 found in 2 Corinthians 8 and 9 contain some of the most powerful and beautiful truths. These chapters tucked away in a letter to a growing church are a perfect place to zoom in and draw out the heart of God for generosity.

## STEP 1: READ THE PASSAGE.

Take time as a community to read 2 Corinthians 8-9 out loud. Even read through it twice. Take turns reading a few verses aloud together.

## STEP 2: MAKE OBSERVATIONS.

In brainstorm style, toss out basic observations from the passage. Don't try to be too deep! Just make basic observations. List as many clear observations as you can in your group, trying to get at least 20 observations.

As a group, you're simply brainstorming answers to, "What does this passage say?"

### **STEP 3: MAKE INTERPRETATIONS.**

After gathering 20 (or more!) observations, it's time to start thinking about what it means. This is how we go from words written to a church 2,000 years ago, to words that influence us today.

As a group, answer these questions:

What does this passage say about God?

What does this passage say about us (humans)?

Where do we see Jesus in this passage?

How would we summarize this passage in 2-3 sentences? (Go ahead and write it out.)

### **STEP 4: MAKE APPLICATIONS.**

Great work so far, team! You've read the passage, made observations and interpretations. Now make some applications. This is where the rubber meets the road, where things start to change in your daily life.

As a group share your personal answer to this one question:

What changes do I need to make in my giving?

# MEETING THREE: PRACTICE

After spending time in the Bible, hearing from God and one another, we want to take this like week to put truth into practice. Here are 3 basic truths you can immediately put into practice:

## 1. GIVING SHOULD BE REGULAR.

Most likely, your income comes to you at regular intervals - whether that be once each month, twice each month, once every two weeks, or after every contract or project. Just as your income flows to you, make sure it regularly flows through you!

In the Old Testament, the tithe was called the “firstfruits,” and it was literally the first tenth of the farmers’ crop. Every harvest, they were called to give the first 10% back to God. It was an annual, regular rhythm.

Very practically, what will your rhythm be? Write down when you will give.

- Every pay period
- The first Sunday of each month
- The \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ Sunday of each month
- After each contract/project
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Very practically, how will you give? Think through which method works best for you and write how you will give.

- Online @ [citylightcb.org](http://citylightcb.org)
- Via text by texting “GIVE” to 888.
- On Sunday mornings in the Giving Box
- via bank check mailed to 2109 Railroad Highway, CB, IA 51503
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. GIVING SHOULD BE PROPORTIONAL.

This means that you can give generously regardless of your total income. The Bible recommends 10% as a starting point for giving. The Old Testament talks about it; Jesus endorsed it (Matthew 23:23); and the grace of giving inspires it!

Very practically, estimate your income (based on whichever regular rhythm you chose) and write 10% of the total.

$$\underline{\hspace{10em}} \quad \times \quad 10\% \quad = \quad \underline{\hspace{10em}}$$

Estimated Income  Tithe

## 3. GIVING SHOULD BE SACRIFICIAL.

Our model for generosity is our Lord Jesus. Jesus gave his very own life (John 3:16), and as we consider how Jesus left the riches of heaven to enter the poverty of earth (2 Corinthians 8:9), our generosity can't help but sacrifice!

Very practically, if you are going to give 10% away, that means you will probably have to stop spending money somewhere else. Maybe you need to cancel a subscription, a cable bill, or another convenience. Maybe you need to eat out less or pack a lunch more. Maybe you need to sell a car, get out of debt, or downsize. For virtually all of us, it will take sacrifice.

Write here what sacrifice God might be calling you to make so you can give more?

- Cancel a subscription
- Cancel my cable bill
- Cancel other convenience: \_\_\_\_\_
- Cancel other convenience: \_\_\_\_\_
- Eat out less by \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Sell this item: \_\_\_\_\_
- Sell this item: \_\_\_\_\_
- Get out of debt
- Downsize our house
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE NOTE: We encourage you to start giving away 10% as quickly as you can. You might not be able to jump all the way to 10% in the first month. That's OK! But could you set a goal to give 10% within the next 6 months? Within the next 12 months?)