



# Living by GIVING STUDY GUIDE



## Week 4: “Pay What You Want”

### 1. READ

#### **Pastor Watley’s Scriptures: Exodus 35 : 29 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>29</sup> All the Israelite men and women who were willing brought to the Lord freewill offerings for all the work the Lord through Moses had commanded them to do.

#### **Exodus 35 : 5 – 9 New King James Version (NKJV)**

<sup>5</sup> ‘Take from among you an offering to the Lord. Whoever *is* of a willing heart, let him bring it as an offering to the Lord: gold, silver, and bronze; <sup>6</sup>blue, purple, and scarlet *thread*, fine linen, and goats’ *hair*; <sup>7</sup>ram skins dyed red, badger skins, and acacia wood; <sup>8</sup>oil for the light, and spices for the anointing oil and for the sweet incense; <sup>9</sup>onyx stones, and stones to be set in the ephod and in the breastplate.

#### **James 1 : 17 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>17</sup> Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

#### **Further Reading: Genesis 14 : 18 – 20 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>18</sup> Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, <sup>19</sup>and he blessed Abram, saying,

“Blessed be Abram by God Most High,  
Creator of heaven and earth.

<sup>20</sup> And praise be to God Most High,  
who delivered your enemies into your hand.”

Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

#### **Hebrews 7 : 1 – 6 New Living Translation (NLT)**

<sup>1</sup>This Melchizedek was king of the city of Salem and also a priest of God Most High. When Abraham was returning home after winning a great battle against the kings, Melchizedek met him and blessed him. <sup>2</sup>Then Abraham took a tenth of all he had captured in battle and gave it to Melchizedek. The name Melchizedek means “king of justice,” and king of Salem means “king of peace.” <sup>3</sup>There is no record of his father or mother or any of his ancestors—no beginning or end to his life. He remains a priest forever, resembling the Son of God.





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<sup>4</sup> Consider then how great this Melchizedek was. Even Abraham, the great patriarch of Israel, recognized this by giving him a tenth of what he had taken in battle. <sup>5</sup> Now the law of Moses required that the priests, who are descendants of Levi, must collect a tithe from the rest of the people of Israel, who are also descendants of Abraham. <sup>6</sup> But Melchizedek, who was not a descendant of Levi, collected a tenth from Abraham. And Melchizedek placed a blessing upon Abraham, the one who had already received the promises of God.

## 2. REFLECT

[Make sure to review this week's sermon!]



As we enter week four of Pastor Watley's sermon series entitled "Living by Giving," we have learned many of the foundational giving principles that are outlined in the Bible. When we fully understand how God calls us to give, we are able to become better stewards of our resources. These biblical principles are not only applicable to our fiscal management, but these teachings also demonstrate the importance of *living* by giving. That means that every area of our lives should be a reflection of our heart to give. As we learned last week, we can either live with a *scarcity mentality* (when we believe there will never be enough) or an *abundance mentality* (when we trust God to supply all our needs). **Which one are you?**





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In our lesson for this week entitled “Pay What You Want,” Pastor Watley reminds us of our call to be “Faith Givers.” We come from a long tradition of people that freely and cheerfully gave to the Lord as an act of faith. Similarly, today we learned about the *Pay What You Want* pricing strategy. This strategy allows the customer to determine what they want to pay for a good or service. Even though various industries have experimented with this pricing model, few of them have succeeded. In fact, one researcher notes, “I haven’t come across a company that uses this concept consistently to make money and thrive in the marketplace.” And yet, for generations, people of faith have effectively practiced the *Pay What You Want* model and thrived. Even though they don’t **have** to give, they **choose** to give.

Included in this legacy of “Faith Givers,” the Israelites in our scripture for this week bring offerings to the Lord for the building of the temple. Exodus 35:29 reads, “All the Israelite men and women who were willing brought to the Lord freewill offerings for all the work the Lord through Moses had commanded them to do.” It is important to note that this passage specifically emphasizes the condition of their giving. Instead of a forced or grudging offering, the people were “willing” and gave “freewill” offerings to God. Many translations of the bible also say that their “hearts were willing,” or their “hearts prompted them” to contribute to what the Lord was doing through Moses. In the sections following, the words *freewill*, *willing*, and *heart* are used 13 times! These particular words indicate to us that the Israelites did not have to be coaxed, convinced, coerced. They freely and willingly gave based on what God placed on their hearts.

Moreover, we see in our second scripture (Exodus 35:5-9), that Moses did not tell them what they should individually give, he simply specified what materials were needed to build the temple. It was left entirely up to the individuals to give what they were able. And yet, even with this *Pay What You Want* strategy, the Israelites were able to accomplish a task that would bless generations to come. This teaches us three important things about giving:

**1. We Give Out of What We Have Been Given!** On the surface, the Israelites were in no position to give. They were a people that escaped Egypt with only the possessions they could carry. They had no home, no land, and their elders were quickly dying. However, even under these conditions, they still found it in their hearts to give from what they had. They understood the concept that Pastor outlined in his message: “God never demands what he does not supply!”

**2. We Give According to What Is Needed!** Based on the list of materials, the Israelites were able to choose how they wanted to give. They may not have been able to afford gold, but perhaps they could provide the badger skins or spices. However, if they were able to give more than that, they were sure to give according to their resources. There was a need at every level, and everyone had the opportunity to participate in the building of the temple no matter their status or level of ability. This leads us to the third important fact about our giving:

**3. When We All Give – The Kingdom Has All It Needs!** By giving what we are able, we are all collectively adding to the Kingdom. We are truly able to thrive when each of us do our part!





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## 3. RESPOND

### Introspective Questions

- What is this passage saying to you about your giving?
- Are you giving according to your ability? For example, similar to Exodus 35, can you give “fine linen,” but instead you give “acacia wood”?

### Discussion Questions

- Why do you think the words *freewill*, *willing*, and *heart* are used so many times when describing the giving of the Israelites?
- Why do you think Moses chose to tell them what was needed instead of telling each of them individually what to give?

