



Living by GIVING STUDY GUIDE



Week 1: “Follow the Recipe”

1. READ

Pastor Watley’s Selected Scripture: 1 Corinthians 16:1–4 New International Version (NIV)

¹Now about the collection for the Lord’s people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. ²On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made. ³Then, when I arrive, I will give letters of introduction to the men you approve and send them with your gift to Jerusalem. ⁴If it seems advisable for me to go also, they will accompany me.

Further Reading: Psalm 37 : 21 – 27 King James Version (KJV)

²¹The wicked borroweth, and payeth not again: but the righteous sheweth mercy, and giveth. ²²For such as be blessed of him shall inherit the earth; and they that be cursed of him shall be cut off. ²³The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way. ²⁴Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the Lord upholdeth him with his hand. ²⁵I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread. ²⁶He is ever merciful, and lendeth; and his seed is blessed. ²⁷Depart from evil, and do good; and dwell for evermore.

Genesis 4 : 2b – 7 New International Version (NIV)

²Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil. ³In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the Lord. ⁴And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The Lord looked with favor on Abel and his offering, ⁵but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast. ⁶Then the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? ⁷If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it.”

Matthew 6 : 31 – 34 New International Version (NIV)

³¹So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³²For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.





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2. REFLECT

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



This week our Senior Pastor Rev. Matthew L. Watley started a brand-new sermon series entitled “Living by Giving.” Throughout this series, we will focus on the various biblical principles that teach us how to be good stewards of our resources. Each week, Pastor will invite us into a new setting to creatively learn about these principles in a new and practical way. This week, we will be learning from the kitchen!

In our lesson for week one entitled “Follow the Recipe,” Pastor Watley reminds us that the Bible is the recipe book for believers. When we read the scriptures, we have a step-by-step guide that helps us bring all of the ingredients of life together. Instead of living a life of guessing and speculation, we can trust in God’s orderly direction and carefully measured wisdom to help us create an abundant and fulfilling life. To demonstrate this idea, Pastor Watley presents us with an object lesson. An **object lesson** is a teaching technique frequently employed by Jesus, where he takes something familiar and uses it to explain or describe something that is unfamiliar. This week, our object lesson about cooking teaches us how to make a Spanish Omelet, as we simultaneously explore the principle of giving.





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To begin, we must first recognize the purpose of a recipe. A recipe is a prescribed formula to create a certain dish. It usually includes set ingredients that should be combined in a certain order and then prepared in a specific way to achieve a desired result. Recipes are helpful guidelines!

Likewise, the Word of God provides us with a prescribed formula to live a *Kingdom* life. In our scripture for this week (1 Corinthians 16:1-4), Paul writes a letter to the church at Corinth and provides them with specific direction. Verse one says, “Now about the collection for the Lord’s people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do.” This is important because Paul’s words suggest that this is a **defined** and set process. Much like a recipe is designed to be duplicated, the church at Corinth was commanded by Paul to duplicate the steps that the Galatian churches took. Instead of being swayed by the severity of their situation or their opinions on the matter, Paul told them to follow the recipe. **And the first ingredient on this recipe was a command to give!**

However, this biblical command is not just applicable to the church at Corinth. We as Kingdom believers are also commanded by God to give. As Pastor Watley notes, we are called to trust God’s commands in all areas of our lives including; loving, forgiving, sewing and reaping. So when we are commanded to give it is important to note, “if we believe God for reaping, we also have to believe God for sewing.” Thankfully, God doesn’t expect us to improvise. Instead, God will always provide us with instructions on how to accomplish His commands.

In verse two of this passage, there are instructions. It reads, “On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.” This passage teaches us that our giving should be **prioritized**. When we prioritize something, we place it in the right order. As we know from following a cooking recipe, adhering to the steps in the proper order is the key to a delicious dish. In the same way, we ought to pray, plan, and then prioritize our giving. The scripture declares on the *first* day of the week, we should practice this principle. Since we worship God on the first day of the week, when we give to God on the first day of the week, we are making God our top priority. This requires us to give God our best, not what’s left!

Also, this passage teaches us that our giving should be **proportional**. When following Pastor’s Spanish omelet recipe, the amount of milk he adds is relational to the amount of eggs he uses. In addition, the amount of each ingredient is based on how many people he is planning to serve. In the same way, the basis of our giving should be proportional. This helps us understand the meaning of the tithe. Our *tithe* is the first 10% of our income that we give to God. When we give God 10% we are acknowledging and thanking Him for provision. And once we give God our 10% we still have 90% left! However, if we are honest, many of us focus on the 10% we give to God and then mismanage the 90% God has given to us. When we give to God first, God is faithful to bless what we have left. However, it is up to us to be a good steward of our God-given resources!





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3. RESPOND

Giving Reflection Sheet

How do you give to God currently?

Are you a “cheerful giver” or are you hesitant to give? Why?

Are you consistent or sporadic with your giving?

Do you have a giving plan? Write down some ways you plan to give to God this month.

