

Small Group Discussion Questions Following the Weekend of October 12-13, 2019

Please don't feel you have to answer every question.

Who's on First?

Alan Kraft, Lead Pastor

Icebreaker

During your growing-up years, what did your parents teach you about money and finances ... either directly or indirectly?

How are your current perspectives and practices regarding money/finances like or different than what you were taught back then?

Group Interaction & Application

Read aloud Luke 6:38 and Proverbs 3:9-10 a couple of times, in different Bible translations, if possible.

What strikes you, intrigues you, or uniquely speaks to you from these verses ... words, phrases, or something else?

What stood out to you from Pastor Alan's message on these verses, or possibly created some push-back for you?

How do you feel about Jesus' over-the-top description of the blessings promised to those who give? (*"Pressed down, shaken together, running over will be poured into your lap."*)

Does this feel exaggerated or like a prosperity gospel?

What kinds of blessings do you think Jesus is talking about?

Have you experienced this in your own life? If so, please describe.

Look again at Proverbs 3:9-10.

How would you describe the concept of "first fruits" in our day and age?

Why is it such a big deal that our giving to God is a first priority in our lives? (See Matthew 6:33)

Now look at Malachi 1:8.

What were the people doing and why were they doing this? Why was God so bothered by this?

What makes it difficult for us to put God first in our giving?

If we choose to put Him first in our giving, what are the personal implications of this decision? (Look again at Jesus' last sentence in Luke 6:38)

What are the implications for our church?

What did you most need to learn or be reminded of from this week's message and group discussion?

Are there any changes the Spirit is prompting you to make in your perspectives or practices regarding living generously?

Spend some time praying for each other and for our church in this area.

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