

Life Group Leader Guide
Week 4 | Chapters 7 & 8

Week 4: Give Over

Scripture: Psalm 24:1; Haggai 2:8; Matthew 6:24–34; Proverbs 4:23
Big idea: When we know and see that God owns everything, we live in such a way to accomplish His plans, purposes, and will. Give over your heart. Give over your pursuit.

Opener (optional): What's something you've been "given" that you never really thought of as yours — a company car, a rental, a hand-me-down? Did you treat it differently than something you bought yourself?

1. Talk It Out

1. Pastor Cody said, "It's more fun to give away something that wasn't yours to begin with," and that ownership determines pursuit. If Psalm 24:1 and Haggai 2:8 are true and it's all His already, how does that change what giving actually feels like?

2. Jesus said no one can serve two masters, and then spent ten verses talking about birds and lilies. Why do you think He connected the master question so directly to worry about provision?

3. In chapter 9, Abraham worships by declaring God "the Possessor of heaven and earth," and Hayford paraphrases the heart behind it: "everything I possess I have from the Lord, and in my worship I acknowledge this." What's the difference between believing that and actually declaring it?

2. Work It Out

1. Hayford points out that Jesus' "woe" on the Pharisees wasn't for what they did but for what they neglected — they attended to the letter while leaving the weightier matters undone, and Jesus went after "their supposition that obedience to a 'ritual' released them from the larger reality of obedience to love's responsibilities." Where are we most tempted to let a religious box-check stand in for a surrendered heart?

2. The message worked through giving over your heart — your purpose, your identity, your sexuality — pointing to Proverbs 4:23. Why is the heart the starting place rather than the wallet, and what happens when we try to reverse the order?

3. Hayford writes that God isn't "a heavenly warlock" waiting to curse anyone; He's a God of blessing, and the curse is simply what happens to a life lived outside the umbrella of redemption's promise. How does that picture of God change the way you hear a call to surrender something over to Him?

3. Live It Out

1. "Are you chasing the Benjamins or His Kingdom?" Be honest about where your energy actually goes in a normal week. What's one decision this month that would say out loud that God owns it?

2. Matthew 6:34 says take no thought about tomorrow. Chapter 9 names the devourer's ordinary weapons — breakdowns, repairs, an investment gone sour, money owed that never comes. Where does that anxiety hit you, and what would it look like to hand God that specific worry rather than manage it alone?

3. Name one thing — a relationship, a plan, a resource, an area of your identity — you're ready to hand over this week. What's the first concrete step, and who in this group can check in with you on it?

Close: Have each person name what they're giving over. Then pray Abraham's declaration over the group from Genesis 14:22, that the Lord is God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth.