

Life Group Leader Guide
Week 5| Chapters 10-11

Week 2: Give To

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 9:6–11; Matthew 6:21; Malachi 3:8–10
Big idea: I am a giver. God is my source — He supplies, you give, He multiplies.

Opener (optional): On a scale of totally comfortable to "please change the subject," how do you feel when church talk turns to money? No judgment — just say the number.

Leader tip: if the group goes quiet, resist filling the silence. Count to ten. The best answers in a group like this usually come after the pause.

- Open with prayer and have someone read **Ephesians 2:1–10** out loud, slowly. Consider having a second person read verses 8–10 again at the end.
- Warm-up question to get everyone talking: *"What's the hardest thing you've ever had to let go of and did you let go willingly or did it get pried loose?"*
- Suggested timing: Talk It Out (20 min) · Work It Out (25 min) · Live It Out (20 min) ·Prayer (10 min). These times are suggested and not rigid. You know your group and flow best.
- You won't get through every question. Pick the two in each section that fit your group and let the conversation breathe.

1. Talk It Out

- Pastor Cody named why money talk makes us uneasy: suspicion about motives, a sense that finances are private, fear of manipulation. Which of those is most real for you, and why do you think Jesus talked about money so often anyway?
- Matthew 6:21 says where your treasure is, your heart will be also. Notice the order — treasure first, then heart follows. What does that say about how our giving shapes us rather than just reflecting us?
- Hayford writes that "to tithe is not to submit to a legal code but to become open to the conduct of kingdom people," and he makes the case that Jesus called tithing an "ought to" rather than retiring it. How does framing it as an open door rather than a rule change the conversation?

2. Work It Out

- The message gave two ditches: don't be stressed and pressed, and don't be a scrooge. Hayford is blunt on the first — "If your giving is born of fear, guilt, or pressure, it's not born of God's Spirit" — and says if faith isn't ignited when you hear of a need, you aren't being disobedient. How do we tell the difference between conviction and pressure, and between generosity and stinginess dressed up as prudence?
- "He supplies. You give. He multiplies." Hayford calls this farmer faith — learning that what's true of crops is true of money, that God is the One who multiplies what is sown. Where is that easy to believe in theory and hard to act on in practice?
- Look at the giving journey together: casual contributor, consistent giver, committed tither, catalytic investor, kingdom builder. Notice the question flips at the end — from "how much of God's money should I give?" to "how much of God's money should I keep?" What has to change in a person for that flip to happen?

3. Live It Out

- Where are you honestly on that journey right now, and what would the next step look like — not the last step, the next one? Pastor Cody's first instruction was simply: start.
- The message said to give to the local church and good soil ministries. Hayford's test for worthy soil is three-part: is it *trustworthy*, *durable*, and *committed to the spread of the gospel*? Apply that to something you already give to, or something you're considering — like the One Day Challenge on October 25.
- Read the four "because God is my source" statements aloud: I can trust Him, I won't live worried, I'll handle His money with care, I will rest in Him. Which one does your life currently contradict, and what's one change this month that would make it true?

Close: Close: *Pray through Sunday's four requests together — financial pressure, people needing a job, those needing a financial miracle, and people needing new life in Jesus. Hayford's reminder is the frame: givers are called primarily to sow toward a harvest, and mankind's greatest need is to know the love of God in Jesus Christ.*