


# Life Group Leader Guide
# Week 3 | Chapters 5 & 6

## *Week 3: Give In*

**Scripture:** John 10:10; Matthew 23:23–28; Luke 6:37–38
**Big idea:** Give in to the principles and patterns of living in God's kingdom. Abundant life comes when we stop compartmentalizing and let God have all of it.

**Opener (optional):** What's one area of your life you keep unusually organized, and one you'd rather nobody look at too closely?

*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 **John 10:10** out loud, slowly.
- The Luke 6:38 passage is often heard as being only about money. Watch for that and steer the group back to the full list in verse 37: judging, condemning, and forgiving are measured back to us too.
- Chicken Little was the illustration on compartmentalization. If your group missed the service, give them a quick recap before question 1.
- 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 Deborah described Moralistic Therapeutic Deism: good people chasing personal happiness with no daily involvement from God, who's called in mainly to fix problems. Where do you see that showing up in how people around us talk about faith, and does any of it sound familiar in your own life?
- Jesus told the Pharisees they tithed their herb gardens while ignoring justice, mercy, and faith. Hayford writes about times to give in through simple obedience, because God has shown us principles
  and patterns meant to free us from a self-protecting, survival mindset. How can a person do all the right religious things and still miss the point?
- Three weeks in, the series has moved from giving up (surrender), to forgiving, to giving in. What stood out to you in chapters 5 and 6, and how does it connect to the two weeks before it?

## 2. Work It Out

- The message used three images from Matthew 23: the strained water (health and wellbeing), the outside of the cup (possessions and provision), and the whitewashed tomb (life and death itself). Which of those three do we most easily keep in its own compartment, separate from God?
- Kingdom principle: the outcome of spiritual transformation is not happiness but ongoing abundant life. What's the difference between the two, and why do you think we so often settle for the first one?
- Luke 6 says how we give is how we receive, and in the same measure: judgment, condemnation, forgiveness, and generosity all come back to us. Hayford points to God's reciprocal patterns as a promise rather than a transaction. How do we hold that as a promise without turning it into a formula for getting what we want from God?

## 3. Live It Out

- Holiness was defined as being separated from sin, and Jesus named justice, mercy, and faith as the real priorities. Which of those three does your week actually need more of, and what would that look like on a Tuesday?
- If your spiritual life and material life were fully integrated, what's the first decision that would change — your calendar, your money, your conversations, your work?
- "The thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy." Where do you sense something being stolen from you right now, and what would it look like to give that area in to God this week rather than manage it yourself? How can this group pray with you in it?

**Close:** Ask everyone to name one compartment they're willing to open up this week. Pray Luke 6:38 over the group, that what they give will come back pressed down, shaken together, and running over.