

## Life Group Questions and Message Notes

1. What you focus on determines your fulfillment. What are you focusing on this Christmas?
2. What do you desire more of that you need to be the initiator of and give away first?
3. Share stories of tithing and how faithful God is in blessing and providing for you.
4. How you spend your money and your time reveals what you love most. What does that reflect that you love?

### **The Greatest Gift: The Key to Everything** **Pastor Kerry Shook - December 6th, 2020**

*“Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.” When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him....*

*After hearing the king, they went on their way; and behold, the star, which they had seen in the east, went on ahead of them until it came to a stop over the place where the Child was to be found. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And after they came into the house, they saw the Child with His mother Mary; and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then they opened their treasures and presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And after being warned by God in a dream not to return to Herod, the magi left for their own country by another way.”*

Matthew 2:1-3,9-12 (NASB)

Faith: 246

Hope: 185

Love: 733

Giving: 2285

### **1. GIVING FREES ME FROM THE DEPRESSED ZONE**

*“When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.”* Matthew 2:10 (NASB)

*“...There is more happiness in giving than receiving.”* Acts 20:35 (GN)

*“Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”*

Luke 6:37-38 (NIV)

*“Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. <sup>18</sup> Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. <sup>19</sup> In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.”*

1 Timothy 6:17-19 (NIV)

### **2. GIVING UNLOCKS THE BLESSED ZONE**

*“Generous people will be blessed...”*

Proverbs 22:9 (NCV)

*“Honor the Lord by giving him the first part of all your income, and he will fill your barns with wheat and barley and overflow your wine vats with the finest wines.”*

Proverbs 3:9-10 (TLB)

### **3. GIVING CHANGES THE DIRECTION OF MY LIFE**

*“And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.”*

Matthew 2:12 (NIV)

*“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”*

Matthew 6:21 (NIV)