

# RIVERS CROSSING COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Group Discussion Guide – From Stressed to Blessed, Week #1  
February 3, 2019



## Engage One Another – Introduction

1. According to the research Pastor Paul shared, the effects of stress can be profound on both our physical and mental health. Share about a recent time when you felt stressed to the point of being overwhelmed. How do you normally respond to the feeling of stress in your life?
2. Growing up, what did you learn about or see demonstrated regarding finances from your family of origin? Is there a particular story or memory about money that helps explain what you learned?

## Engage One Another – Diving Deeper

3. Read Luke 6:37-38 together. What does this passage say about God’s desire regarding the attitude of our heart toward others? From your life experience, have you found the principles outlined in this passage to be true? For example, “forgive, and you will be forgiven.”
4. Do you view God as generous, or do you struggle to associate generosity with the character and work of God? Provide context for the answer you provided.
5. Read John 3:16-18. What does this passage communicate about the heart of God and generosity?
6. In Matthew 6:21, Jesus declares, “for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” What is it about money that gives it such potential to control our lives and shape the affections of our heart?
7. Read Deuteronomy 15:1-15 together. Pastor Paul shared that God is after your money because He is after your heart. From that text, Pastor Paul outlined four attitudes of the heart connected to our giving and finances that God wants us to address: 1) deal with a *grieving* heart (verse 7), 2) deal with a *selfish* heart (verse 10); 3) develop a *generous* heart (verse 14); and 4) develop a *grateful* heart (verse 15)
  - a. Which of these four attitudes can you relate with the most when it comes to your finances?
  - b. Which of these four attitudes challenges you the most when it comes to your finances?
  - c. What does this passage have to teach us about what our underlying motivation(s) for giving should be?
8. For those of you who have taken up God’s calling to be generous with your finances (see as additional examples Malachi 3:10 and 2 Corinthians 9:6-15), share about what that process has looked like for you. How have you seen God move through that decision and ongoing obedience?

### Pause & Reflect:

In the Psalms, it’s called a “Selah”. A moment to catch your breath, rest, and praise. It’s an intentional break to reflect and fully experience the moment before moving on. How did God challenge, encourage, correct, etc... as your group engaged one another in this conversation?

### Engage God – Time in Prayer

Rivers Crossing exists to give people an opportunity to be fully engaged followers of Christ. Becoming a fully engaged follower of Christ involves trusting and obeying God with our finances. To the extent that we ignore this truth, we do so to our own detriment. Thankfully, God has not left us in the dark as to His attitude about finances. But more than that, God so beautifully and powerfully revealed His own heart of generosity by sending His Son on our behalf.

Pastor Paul challenged us as a church body to grow up into maturity when it comes to our heart attitudes toward giving. **That challenge is not just a general one, rather it's a specific challenge addressed to you.**

Spend some time in prayer together reflecting on your personal heart attitudes toward giving and finances. Even if there's a lot of silence during this time of prayer, that's perfectly OK. Create space for the Holy Spirit to give you discernment on this area of your life. Ask for a next step(s) for how you can honor God with your treasure. Be bold and humble enough to ask the following of God with respect to your finances:

*“Search me, O God, and know my heart;  
test me and know my anxious thoughts.  
Point out anything in me that offends you,  
and lead me along the path of everlasting life.”*  
Psalm 139:23-24 (NLT)

Pray that as a church body, Rivers Crossing would lean into generosity. And pray that in doing so, we would reflect the heart of God to those in the city of Cincinnati.

Engage One Another + Engage God = *Extraordinary Together*