

SESSION NINE

WHY WE GIVE

WATCH *Session Nine - Blessing: I Can Be Generous*

Big Idea

Intentional giving and generosity is important. God has blessed us with more than we need so that we can be a blessing to others. Let's look for opportunities to be generous and consistently make an effort to listen for the voice of God. When we give generously, we can experience new joy, watching with open hands while God works miracles with the resources He provides us.

You know the generous grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, so that by His poverty He could make you rich.

2 CORINTHIANS 8:9

Think

Have you been a recipient of someone else's generosity? How did it make you feel?

We can all be a blessing to someone else. How can we be intentional with the gifts or resources God has given us to bless others? What is one thing you could do to bless someone this week?

When do you find it the easiest to be generous? When do you find it the most difficult? What factors contribute to each of those situations?

Our God is generous. He continues to bless us even when we don't deserve it. How do you live differently knowing that God loves us that much?

Prayer Focus

God's will daily and look for opportunities to expand the Kingdom.

Next Steps

Ask God to speak to you clearly about how He is calling you to live generously.

Think about random acts of kindness, a giving plan through your church, other non profits that are doing work you're passionate about and other opportunities that can help you demonstrate generosity in your daily life.

Ask for wisdom managing your personal finances and pray that God would show you how to leverage your resources to expand His Kingdom.

Read the LifeSwitch E-Zine - Investing Financially found at:
www.bit.ly/LifeSwitch05

Common Questions

It's hard for me to wrap my head around the idea of "giving." How can I become a more generous person?

Start with the tithe, which involves giving a percentage of your income regularly. Have you ever heard the funny fact about smiling and feeling happy? Studies show that if you don't feel very happy, but you'd like to, one of the best things you can do is start smiling. By behaving like a happy person, you start actually feeling happy. Obedience to God is a lot like that. The best way to feel more generous is to do what a generous person would: give. When you see the impact your giving has, and experience your relationship with God grow deeper as you walk in obedience, you will become a confident, cheerful giver. As in so many things, actions lead and feelings follow.

How much should I give?

Financial giving can be divided into two categories: tithes and offerings. The Bible teaches us that we worship the Lord with our tithe, which is ten percent of our income contributed to the church on a regular basis. When we feel called to give over and above our tithe, we do so as an offering.

I don't have any money and I don't have any talents. What do I have to offer God?

Everybody is a "10" at something and has plenty to offer. It sounds like you haven't discovered your areas of strengths and spiritual giftings. Reach out, we'd love to get alongside you and help you discover how God has shaped you on purpose and for a purpose.

How do I benefit from giving?

GIVING DRAWS US CLOSER TO GOD.

Matthew 6:21 tells us, "Where your treasure is, there your heart is also." Giving is the antidote to materialism. See 1 Timothy 6: 17-19, which says "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. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. 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."

GIVING STRENGTHENS OUR FAITH.

Proverbs 3:5, 9-10 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase; So your barns will be filled with plenty."

AND GIVING IS AN INVESTMENT IN ETERNITY.

See 1 Timothy 6: 18-19: "Give happily to those in need, and always be ready to share whatever God has given you. By doing this, you will be storing up real treasure for yourselves in heaven - it is the only safe investment for eternity."

I want to Give but don't know how to start, what would you suggest?

We'd encourage you to pick a percentage and start there. Start with 5% or 2%. We might not be able to do all we want to do, but we can do something. So start where you can , and then move towards where you want to be.

A key component of giving is getting our finances under control. For most people in our culture, the problem isn't an income problem, rather an out going problem. We tend to live right on or even beyond our means. Developing a personal financial plan will ensure that you are not only in a position to give like you want, but you are also accumulating wealth and finding financial peace.

Every year we offer a course call Financial Peace University that helps anyone get out of debt and on top of their finances.

*For more information see the *LifeSwitch E-Zine - Investing Financially* - www.bit.ly/LifeSwitch05