

Message Discussion Guide

GIVING IN THE HISTORY OF REDEMPTION

The Church at Brook Hills,

Dr. David Platt

May 23, 2010

1 Chronicles 29-2 Chronicles 1

This guide is to help you facilitate discussion with your Small Group. Use it as a resource to lead your group in discovering and owning the truths of God's Word. There may be questions you do not want to use and there may be instances where you just want to focus on a particular point or truth. Some questions may bring out emotions and cause people to dwell on their relationship with God. Your role is to facilitate this experience not to complete the discussion guide. Use this as a flexible teaching tool not a rigid teaching task list.

Connect . . .

Use one or both of the following options to introduce the discussion time to follow.

Option 1

Invite learners to describe what they think it means to be a steward of something. Encourage a brief discussion and then explain that today we will discuss how we are God's stewards of His resources.

Option 2

Invite any willing learners to share about a time when God provided for them financially, especially during a time when they gave money to the church even when it was very difficult. Explain that today we will discuss what part giving plays in the life of a Christ-follower.

Review the Message . . .

Three Reflections On Old Covenant Giving...

- Giving is God -driven, God -centered, and God -exalting.
 - God is the owner of all things, and we are His stewards.
 - God is the giver of all things, and we are His servants.
- God's people give out of celebration, not out of obligation.
- Our giving is always attached to our hearts.

Discussion

- Enlist several learners to read 1 Chronicles 29:1-22. Remind learners that King David had wanted to build the Temple for God, but God commanded David to allow his son, Solomon, to build it.
- How is David's zeal to give to God evident in this passage?
- Looking specifically at verses 10-16, how did David react to the generous giving of the people? Why was God the central figure in the people's giving?
- How did David view possessions in relation to God's provision?
- Looking at verses 5, 9, and 17 what were the attitudes of the people toward giving to God?
- What did their giving reveal about their hearts toward God?

Message Discussion Guide

GIVING IN THE HISTORY OF REDEMPTION

The Church at Brook Hills,

Dr. David Platt

May 23, 2010

1 Chronicles 29-2 Chronicles 1

Application

- Why do we feel that we have a right to our possessions?
- What do we see as our responsibility toward money and possessions?
- How would our lives change if we saw ourselves as stewards of someone else's money, namely God's?
- What does our checkbook register reveal about what's important in our lives?

Three Types Of Old Covenant Gifts...

- Tithes were given to...
 - Support the priests and Levites.
 - Provide for community celebration.
 - Help the poor and needy.
 - Total Tithe: About 23 % per year.
 - The tithe was only the beginning of their giving...
- Firstfruit offerings were given to offer the best to the Lord.
- Freewill offerings were given to offer the excess to the Lord.

Discussion

- Enlist three learners to read Leviticus 27:30, Numbers 18:21-24, Deuteronomy 14:22-23, 28-29.
- According to these passages, what was the purpose of tithing in the Old Covenant?
- How often did each tithe occur? Point out that tithing to provide for the priests and community occurred once each year, and tithing to provide for the poor occurred once every three years.
- Enlist two learners to read Leviticus 19:23-25 and Exodus 36:3-7. Describe the other types of offerings that were included under the Old Covenant.

Application

- What is our general attitude toward giving in the church today?
- What is our first reaction to seeing how much the people in the Old Covenant gave back to God?
- Why do we often not consider the offering more than a tithe to God?

Three Conclusions Moving Into New Covenant Giving...

- There is no command to tithe under the new covenant.
- Giving in the new covenant involves greater sacrifice than giving in the old covenant, not less.
- Tithing is a helpful guideline for giving under the new covenant, but it is not a legalistic mandate.
 - Start your giving with the first ten percent to the church.

Message Discussion Guide

GIVING IN THE HISTORY OF REDEMPTION

The Church at Brook Hills,

Dr. David Platt

May 23, 2010

1 Chronicles 29-2 Chronicles 1

- This is the “ floor ” of giving.
- Expand your giving with greater percentages according to your excess.
 - There is no “ ceiling ” on giving.

Three Reasons Why Tithing Is Helpful In New Covenant Giving...

- Tithing honors a biblical principle.
 - The Old Testament describes it.
 - Jesus endorses it.
- Tithing reinforces the truths of God’s ownership and our stewardship.
- Tithing helps us in the constant battle with greed and materialism in our hearts.

Discussion

- Enlist a couple of learners to read Acts 4:34 and Luke 11:42. Although the New Testament does not command Christ-followers to tithe, how do these passages indicate that Jesus endorsed tithing and the New Testament church practiced giving?
- Read 1 Timothy 6:6-10. How can wealth cause disruption in the spiritual life of a believer?

Application

- How do we use grace as an excuse to do what we want to do or not do what we don’t want to do?
- How do we use grace as an excuse not to tithe? What other reasons do we give for not tithing? What do these reasons reflect about our belief in God and our hearts toward Him?
- How should graceful giving compare to giving under the Law, as the Law is actually inefficient to save?
- How should our giving reflect the grace we’ve received in our lives?
- Although tithing is not mandated under the New Covenant, how are the purposes for which tithing was commanded still implied?
- How can tithing and giving offerings help us to avoid the temptations of greed, materialism, and poor stewardship?

Three Prayers for New Covenant Givers...

- God, give us hearts that are enthralled with Your worship.
- God, give us minds that are filled with Your wisdom.
- God, give us hands that are generous with Your wealth.

Message Discussion Guide

GIVING IN THE HISTORY OF REDEMPTION

The Church at Brook Hills,

Dr. David Platt

May 23, 2010

1 Chronicles 29-2 Chronicles 1

Discussion

- Read 2 Chronicles 1:1-17.
- How did Solomon demonstrate his worship of God and dependence upon God?
- How did Solomon's relationship with God affect how he used his wealth?

Application

- How does the Gospel affect how we spend our money? How high a priority does God place on our giving of money and resources?
- What does our reaction toward the discussion of tithing reveal about our relationship with money?
- How can our use of money be a witness to God's greatness and His glory?