

SMALL GROUPS

LIFE IS BETTER TOGETHER

TIPS TO A SUCCESSFUL GROUP

- As the group settles in this week, you may want to start by asking how they did on the “*Live It Out*” applications from the previous session. Then, start with the icebreaker question.

The Treasure Principle: The Spirituality of Giving

Describe a situation where you developed a love for something by spending time doing it. Did you learn to enjoy running because you set out to become healthy? Start liking Brussels sprouts because your spouse did? Become an avid ballet fan because your daughter danced through high school?

In this session we are going to look at how the way we invest God’s money directs our affections. We tend to care about the things we invest most in.

VIEW

Show Session 2: *The Spirituality of Giving* (17 minutes).

LINK to Video: <https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/player/video/198062?session=209053>

Randy introduced this session by describing the **first key** to the treasure principle: “God owns everything; I am His money- manager.” **How did the idea of God owning everything—including your money—sit with you? What reaction did you have? Why?**

Randy pointed out that everything we have—our money and the stuff we buy with it—is on-loan from God. It’s actually His. **How do we typically behave with our stuff and our money? Who do our behavior and attitudes often portray as the owner?**

Randy asked the question that, if everything we have belongs to God, shouldn’t we be asking Him what He wants us to do with His stuff? **Have you ever asked yourself what God may want you to do with the things He’s given to you? If so, what conclusion did you arrive at? If not, why not?**

In the real life story, Jennifer found that the more she hoarded money to advance her own agenda—getting her husband’s attention, attracting fabulous friends—the more empty she felt. It wasn’t until she responded to the prompting of the Holy Spirit to give rather than get that she discovered true joy.

What part of Jennifer’s experience resonated with you?

If everything we own belongs to God—including our money—then it becomes very important that we learn to listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit when He speaks. He’ll be the one to nudge us toward one person or another in generosity. **How have you heard the Holy Spirit speak in the past? What did it sound like? Look like? Feel like?**

If you were to hear to the prompting of the Holy Spirit to give generously to a stranger, how would you likely respond? If we’re honest, we’d *like* to say we’d respond readily and give lavishly. **But is following the prompting of the Holy Spirit—especially to give money—easy? Why or why not?**

Jesus' words in Matthew 6:21 form the **second key** in the treasure principle: "My heart always goes where I put God's money." **How have you understood Matthew 6:21? What have you heard or understood the cause-and-effect relationship to be?**

"Your heart will always follow your treasure. It's as if Jesus is saying, 'Show me your checkbook, your credit card statement, your receipts, and I'll show you where your heart is.' But where we put our money doesn't just show where our heart is, it determines where our heart goes.... Do you want a heart for General Motors? Buy up shares of General Motors, you'll suddenly be interested in it. Why? Because you have vested interests. You are an investor."

Describe a situation in your experience where you've seen your heart follow your investments. (Committing to college, tithing, raising kids) **What did it look like? How long did it take you to start to love what you'd invested in?**

Money isn't bad in and of itself. Only when we set our heart on having money do we fall into sin. Randy demonstrated, instead, that money can be good when we focus on giving it away. **If our hearts always go where we invest God's money, what will happen to our hearts when we start giving our money away? Where would we get our sense of security from if not from money?**

What are you currently investing your money in, specifically? What kind of impact for the kingdom is that investment likely to have? Does it need to change? How?

Week 2: SCRIPTURES FOR S.O.A.P.

DAY 1: *“...for where your treasure is, there your heart [your wishes, your desires; that on which your life centers] will be also.”*

Matthew 6:21 (AMP)

DAY 2: *All the believers stayed together. They shared everything. They sold their land and the things they owned. Then they divided the money and gave it to those people who needed it.*

Acts 2: 44, 45 (ICB)

DAY 3: *And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God gave the churches in Macedonia. They have been tested by great troubles. And they are very poor. But they gave much because of their great joy. I can tell you that they gave as much as they were able. They gave even more than they could afford. No one told them to do it. But they asked us again and again—they begged us to let them share in this service for God’s people. And they gave in a way that we did not expect. They first gave themselves to the Lord and to us. This is what God wants.*

2 Corinthians 8:1-5 (ICB)

DAY 4: *Then a poor widow came and dropped in two small coins. Jesus called His disciples to Him and said, “I tell you the truth, this poor widow has given more than all the others who are making contributions. For they gave a tiny part of their surplus, but she, poor as she is, has given everything she had to live on.”*

Mark 12:42-44 (NLT)

DAY 5: *For the churches in Macedonia and Achaia have freely decided to give an offering to help the poor among God’s people in Jerusalem.*

Romans 15:26 (GNT)