



## WEEK 2 - INTENTIONAL GIVER

### SERIES BIG IDEA

Here is a place of financial stress and anxiety. There is a place of financial peace and freedom. If we hope to get from here to there, we will take the next step in our generosity journey.

### MESSAGE BIG IDEA

If we hope to get from here to there, we will take the next step and become an intentional giver.

### SCRIPTURE

Malachi 3:6-12, Matthew 19:16-24, and Ecclesiastes 5:8-20

### ICEBREAKER

These questions are designed to get people thinking about how they were raised to think (or not think) about money. Some of this might be easy for people to discuss, but typically finances are a touchy subject, so try to ease everyone into it.

### BIBLE DISCUSSION

This Malachi passage has very harsh language. The author of Malachi is railing against systemic oppression and a time period in which Israel has become very prosperous but has forgotten God. They eat and drink and rejoice, never thinking about God. The prophet has very harsh words for that behavior ("curse" and "rob" for example).

It's important to remember (and maybe remind your group) that although God is challenging this particular group of Israelites to test the command to tithe here and receive blessings, that this isn't a command or promise for all time. But often people who strive to be intentionally generous talk about blessings that have come their way, not just financial but also relational. God's blessings can take the form of repairing a broken relationship or strengthening our relationship to God or unexpected financial security.

So the second and third passages are meant to be comparisons. These are other biblical attitudes around wealth and giving- notably from Jesus and the writer of Ecclesiastes in the Old Testament. Take some time to dig into the similarities and differences here. See if you can discover ways they are in agreement (anti-exploitation, concern over the spiritual state that wealth can induce, etc...).

### LIFE APPLICATION

This could be very challenging for people to discuss. Maybe go first when talking about your own attitudes and honest word associations. It could help break the ice further to know that their group leader isn't a perfect example of generosity but is someone still continuing their generosity journey. Help to find a balance between people telling stories that could border on bragging while still acknowledging the very real tension.

With question 8, it might be helpful to share your own particular step. Where are you going to be challenging yourself to grow in generosity? Which step will you take?

### CHALLENGE

Use this to get your group thinking about how they can practically implement this into their lives this week. Find out the next time your location is offering Financial Peace University and offer that as a next step for people. Maybe check out Randy Alcorn's series on biblical generosity through RightNow Media called The Treasure Principle: <https://www.rightnow.org/Content/Series/198062>

Or consider going through a financial video series together as a small group. Another great resource is Brad Formsmas's "I like Giving" on RightNow Media: <https://www.rightnow.org/Content/Series/153654>