

**Finding Financial Freedom | Week 3 - Giving is Good****Message Big Idea**

We can experience the truth of Jesus' words, "It is more blessed to give than to receive," when we trust God and give.

**Scripture**

Acts 20:33-35, 2 Corinthians 8:1-7, Malachi 3:10

**Points to Keep In Mind**

1. When discussing the principle that it is more blessed to give than receive, you might prompt people in several ways. You could follow up by asking what they remember giving or receiving for birthdays or Christmas in the last few years. This can be an eye-opening exercise for some. One of the points of the message was the difference between giving to someone versus getting for yourself. Of these two realities, which has moved you more emotionally?
2. When we look at the Macedonian example Paul gives in 1 Corinthians; we see they gave out of their hardship. It says they gave beyond their ability. That's worth reflecting on as a group. What does that mean? He says they pleaded for the privilege to help support the poor. The text says they gave themselves first to the Lord, which hints at their priorities and values around the money. There is also a sense in which generosity can be appropriately held up to inspire others.
3. The topic of money is a hard one for people to talk about in any context, yet it is such a regular part of our everyday life. Perhaps we have too much of our identity or self-worth wrapped up in our bank accounts. Jesus repeatedly challenges our understanding of money and suggests it's one of the biggest obstacles to aligning our hearts and minds with God and his Kingdom. The practice of generosity is a practice that continually aligns us with Jesus' Kingdom vision.
4. Encourage the group to find some accountability around finances in the group. One example given in the message for the week was a small group that shares with the group anytime anyone was about to spend over \$1,000. The point isn't to talk people out of purchases, but to allow everyone to talk it through and let the group ask questions. It is one example of accountability. That may be too much for some groups, but that example might get your creative juices flowing.

**Additional Questions, and Resources**

1. Where do you see God at work in your life right now?
2. What next steps do you feel called to take in your faith journey?
3. Have you considered getting baptized? [communitychristian.org/baptism](http://communitychristian.org/baptism)
4. For resources related to this series, go to [communitychristian.info](http://communitychristian.info)