



SMALL GROUP LEADER

Giving

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SCRIPTURE READING: Malachi 1:6-14, 2 Corinthians 8-9

Group leaders should:

- **"Set the table" for interaction and group discussion by (4 minutes):**
 - explaining the idea of the week's theme
 - explaining the context of the main passage(s) to be discussed
- **Debrief from weekly reading (8-10 minutes)**
- **Facilitating, Discipling, Guiding, Shepherding (30 minutes)**

Small Group Questions:

- 1. Why was God angry at their giving? Why is God worthy of more than what His people were giving?**
- 2. How does the passage reveal God is worthy?**
- 3. How does this truth about God motivate how you give?**
- 4. How is the Holy Spirit speaking to you about giving?**

Exercise

- 1. After question 3 ask the members of your group to write down their obedience plan for the coming week. Ask them to share with the person sitting beside them or with their table what they wrote on their paper.**
- 2. Ask everyone to get into small groups and draw out their insights from this week on an empty 3 Circles framework.**

Giving

Biblical Overview

Giving is a recurring theme through the Bible. Throughout the Scriptures, God gives to His people. He gave Israel the land. He gave us His Word. He gives strength to His people. He gives grace. He gives mercy. He gives blessings. The heart of the gospel is that “God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son.” And that is our assurance, Romans 8:32, “He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things?”

We as God’s people are to give in response to God’s giving character and saving work in Christ. In the Old Testament, people gave in response to God’s revealed presence, in response to His mighty works, and to bring glory to Him. In the New Testament, we are to give joyfully, faithfully, sacrificially, and as worship. We are to give because of the generous grace that God has given to us.

Giving produces greater contentment in your heart (1 Timothy 6:6). Giving increases your love for the Kingdom (Matthew 6:21). Giving honors and gives glory to God. Giving reveals that Jesus is the priority of your life. Giving grows a more loving heart. Giving develops a stronger faith.

As you study the New Testament church, they gave:

- to meet the needs of believers inside the local church. Acts 2:42-27; Acts 4:32-37.
- to meet the needs of believers in other churches. 1 Corinthians 8:1-7.
- to provide for their leaders. 1 Timothy 5:7.
- to advance the kingdom around the world. Philippians 4:10-19.

Main Passages

There are two passages that we are focusing on this week.

- The first is Malachi 1:6-14. These verses give a serious warning about giving God the leftovers. God’s command was to give a lamb without spot or blemish, the very best. Instead, the people were giving blind, lame, or sick lambs as their offerings. God said that in so doing, they despised Him. Through Malachi, God was reminding His people that their giving was to exalt the greatness of God’s name and the advance of God’s reputation to the nations.
- The second passage is 2 Corinthians 8-9. In this text, Paul points to the giving of the Macedonia churches as the epitome of giving that brought glory to God. They gave sacrificially, out of willing hearts, in generous grace, and cheerfully. Their giving blessed God’s people (the church) as they gave in worship to God.

