

Abundance: Week #1 Group Discussion

It's All About the Heart



The first step toward an abundant life is an abundant heart. God wants to bless every area of your life, pressed down, shaken together, running over. But there's something He expects from us first – hearts that are generous and grateful as we steward the gifts He's given to us. Take some time to discuss the following questions as a group:

1. What is the most selfless thing someone has ever done for you (or that you've seen done for someone else)?
2. What kind of teaching have you heard in the past about giving? Did this teaching have a positive or negative effect on you, and why?
3. Read Luke 6:37-38:
"Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you."

People often equate this passage with money, but money is not mentioned. Some call this passage the "Spiritual Law of Reciprocity" – whatever you give (judgment, mercy, time, service, etc.) will be returned to you in abundance. What are some areas of your life where you've seen this "sowing and reaping" principle at work, either for good or for bad?

4. Why do you think people struggle with selfishness before giving and grief after they have given?

Take a moment to privately think about a time you've struggled with either selfishness or grief when giving. Then discuss as a group some practical ways you can work through those feelings in your heart, so you can choose to be generous and grateful.

5. "Giving to get" has become a popular approach to motivate Christians to give. In what ways does the saying, "God doesn't bless giving; He blesses giving with the right heart" challenge what you have been taught in the past about giving?

6. Matthew 6:21 says, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." People give of their treasure, time, and talents. How does the way you spend your treasure, time, and talents demonstrate where your heart is? In which of these areas are you the most generous? Which area is the greatest challenge?

PRAY:

Take some time to pray for each other in your group. Take time to thank God for his generosity toward you. Then commit to God all that you are and all that He's given you. Finally, think about the prayer requests and life circumstances of each person as you pray and ask God for generous hearts in the midst of each need.

TO DO AT HOME:

Take time personally to fill out the following form and ask yourself, "where is my heart when it comes to giving? Do I tend to be more selfish and grieving or am I more generous and grateful?"

Where Is My Money Going?	
<i>List your top five categories (by amount) of discretionary spending (e.g. eating out, entertainment, ministry giving, travel, recreation, etc.):</i>	
CATEGORY	AVERAGE MONTHLY SPENDING

Pray and ask God what He would say to you about your heart in giving. Then, ask Him boldly to give you opportunities to be generous this week.