

Abundance: Week #2 Group Discussion

Obedience Brings Blessing



Jesus called his disciples friends because they did what He commanded (John 15:14-15). The first step toward an abundant life is an abundant heart, and the second one flows from it – obedience that is cultivated through generous giving. Take some time to discuss the following questions as a group:

1. Have you ever been in a situation where you thought, “If I just had more money, I could fix this problem?” What did it feel like to be in that situation, and what was the result?
2. Read Matthew 6:24: “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”

Mammon (the riches of this world) deceives us by promising the things only God can give – security, significance, identity, independence, power, freedom, and peace. Which of these things have you been most drawn to believe that money can give you?

3. How does generosity help to break the hold of mammon on your heart? Give an example of how your generosity has done this for you.
4. Studies have shown that only 5-7% of Christians tithe faithfully on their gross income. Why do you think so many believers struggle when it comes to tithing? What are some of the barriers or misunderstandings that hinder believers from tithing?
5. Think of a time when you stepped out in faith to obey God’s commands and the prompting of the Holy Spirit. What were the results of your obedience?

PRAY:

Take some time to pray for each other in your group. Thank God for his generosity toward you. Repent of seeking mammon for the things only God can provide, and then ask Him to help you be faithful in your giving. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you courageous generosity this week and to break the power of mammon in your hearts. 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:

Review the chart you made last week (a copy of the exercise is listed below). Where, if anywhere does ministry giving fall on the list? If you're not currently tithing, what are the reasons? How can you overcome the things in your heart that keep you from tithing? Ask God to help you and then make a plan to move toward generous giving over the next few weeks.

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

Take time to read the following verses from 1 Timothy. What is the Holy Spirit speaking to you through this passage?

1 Timothy 6:17-19

¹⁷ As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. ¹⁸ They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, ¹⁹ thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.