



Give | December 7, 2016

Discussion Guide

The Scoop

We typically think about getting rich as accumulating more and more stuff...more than we already have. What if being rich meant that we were willing to give of some of what we already have?

Key Verse

2 Corinthians 9:6-7 (NLT)

Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully."

Discussion

We give our time, energy, and money to a lot of things. Typically we do this in a combination of giving of our resources to things that are important to us and inadvertently letting our resources go wherever they happen to go.

1. To what things do you intentionally give your time, energy, and money?
2. What are the things that you feel take the most of your time, energy, and money without much of a thought or plan?

Whether we like to admit it or not, we give whether we plan on it or not. Our time disappears, we get exhausted and feel stressed, and most of our bank accounts aren't bursting at the seams. The interesting thing about God is that he wants us to be intentional about how we give of our resources because how we give of our resources is directly attached to the status of our hearts.

3. Have you ever committed to giving to something intentionally? What? Why?
4. What are the potential barriers to giving for you?

When it comes to giving, God is always after our hearts. In 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 the Bible suggests that we should decide in our hearts to be generous and we will reap the benefits. However, if we don't do so intentionally, we will still end up giving. We just won't experience the benefits.

5. If you were to adjust the way you give currently, what would you look to change?
6. What cause or causes are most important to you? Are you currently contributing to them?

What's Next?

Andy Stanley wrote a book called *How To Be Rich* discussing the basic principles of giving and receiving. In it he discusses how we benefit from giving and not in a "give 100, get 200" kind of way. In addition to discussing the philosophy behind giving abundantly, he also takes a very practical approach to experiencing a life that is rich. Consider how you currently give and what might need to change based on the following 3 tips from Stanley:

1. **Priority:** Make giving a non-negotiable part of your budget.
2. **Percentage:** Give a percentage to remove the concerns of not having enough money.
3. **Progressive:** With each season consider how you might be able to increase what you are currently doing and giving.