**SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE**

Message Series: Master Your Money

Message Title: Give Generously

Date:

**Icebreaker:**

Share with the group a time when you were the recipient of an act of generosity. Perhaps it was an unexpected financial gift, a need you had that someone met, or even someone pouring into you emotionally or spiritually. How did this act of generosity impact you? Was it difficult to receive this gift? Why or why not?

**Discussion:**

*(Leaders: The questions that follow are designed to stir reflection and discussion on this week’s primary message points. Please read through them prior to your meeting, so you can be prepared to prayerfully pace your group well. And remember, as leader, your goal is to promote increased biblical awareness, as well as individual self-awareness – a combination that, with the help of the Holy Spirit, results in revelation and…transformation!)*

**Give Generously**

This week’s message starts with a discussion of faith. Ultimately if you live by faith, it will determine how you manage money. For example, your long-term view of eternity can help you make better financial decisions in the short term. Ron Blue talked about how you can break the power of money over your life by making a few key financial decisions. Once money has no power over you, it frees God up to fully bless you in ways you may have never imagined.

**Overview of Faith**

Read aloud Hebrews 11, verses 1, 6 and 16. Is there a phrase or key word in one of these three verses that especially speaks to your heart? How would you explain what faith means to you to someone who is new to the concept?

**Questions for Reflection**

* If you live by faith, it redefines how you manage money. How do you think faith and money management are intertwined?
* Before this message, to what degree did you see faith as an integral part of your money management practices? Did the message change your perspective? In what way(s)?
* In verse six, Scripture tells us “Without faith, it is impossible to please God.” Based on this verse, what do you believe is the difference between being loved by God and pleasing Him?

**Long-Term Goals and Our View of Eternity**

Read aloud Luke 6:38. Long-term goals begin with our view of eternity. God makes it clear that whatever we sow now comes back to us in the long term. A key financial principle for all of our lives is that the longer-term our perspective, the better our immediate decisions will be.

**Questions for Reflection**

* Kevin pointed out that it’s important to have a heart of giving toward things that matter to God. What kinds of things do you think matter to God?
* Share with the group a time when perhaps you felt led to contribute to a specific ministry or cause. In what ways did that act of giving that bless you?
* What immediate decisions can you make with regard to your finances that will help you move toward your long-term goals?

**God’s View of Tithing**

Read Malachi 3: 6-12 and 1 Corinthians 16:2. Based on these Scriptures, we can see three important truths related to tithing: 1) God owns it all; 2) God is first; and 3) I can afford to give. These truths reveal an important idea to always bear in mind when it comes to managing our money – EVERY decision we make is about using God’s resources wisely. When we truly grasp this idea, everything changes.

**Questions for Reflection**

* Ron Blue said, “We give to break the power of money in our lives.” If we don’t give generously, we are enslaved to our money. Was this a concept you had already grasped in your own life, and to what degree?
* How diligent have you been in consulting God about ALL financial decisions, and not just the big ones? Are there specific strategies you can employ to help you move forward in committing every financial decision to God?
* In the Skittles story, we saw that the condition of the heart has everything to do with an attitude of generosity. Share with the group a time when you witnessed someone giving more out of the condition of their heart than out of their financial abundance.

Proverbs 3:9 -10 says: “Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.” The biblical order for money management is 1) God, 2) Saving and 3) Lifestyle .

* Do you agree with the assertion that the last category in your list is where you feel the most pressure? How does that play out in your life?
* If the order for money management matters, are there steps you need to take to reorder the categories of God, Saving and Lifestyle? If you are comfortable, share these steps with the group.
* What kinds of Kingdom impact can you imagine God making through your financial giving?

**Wrap-Up/Close:**

Discuss as a family, or with a close friend, some steps of obedience to God you want to take in the area of financial management. Set some specific accountability goals for yourself or your family, and ask someone you trust to help you take those important steps. It might be tithing for the first time, being more generous, implementing a savings plan, or cutting back on lifestyle choices so you are no longer a slave to money. Take some time to prayerfully consider what God might be showing you through this series on money.

**Throughout the Week: (Optional)**

* Read “Master Your Money” by Ron Blue and journal about insights you receive from his teachings.
* Get an accountability partner to specifically pray with you over financial challenges. Share with your partner some specific ways you wish to increase your faith in this area.
* Go through your bank statements from the last month and analyze your financial priorities based on how you spend money.