

GIVE & GROW

A DISCIPLE'S GUIDE TO FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



INTRODUCTION

Jesus told His closest followers that the Father would be glorified through the fruit borne of their dedicated lives. (John 15:8) And he made sure His original “small group” understood that their love for one another would speak to the world as proof of their commitment to Him as His disciples. (John 13:15)

These truths are equally relevant to the believer of today. If we remain in Him, and He in us, we will bear much fruit. (John 15:7)

And so it is abundantly clear, that prerequisite to one’s spiritual growth, and the fruit thereof, is the Lordship of Christ in one’s life. Lordship forms the basis for our priorities and attitudes regarding how we value people and possessions. His reign sets the tone for how we view money and what it can accomplish when put to His holy and unrestricted purposes. His Sovereignty in our hearts defines our motives and enlightens us to the consequences of our decisions, both good and bad. Lordship says we either live for him, or we don’t; there is no taste in the Father’s mouth for lukewarm. (Rev 3:16) Want a reality check? No fruit equals no Lordship, and vice versa.

This course takes a look at the telltale fruit that a disciple of Jesus will bear in the area of financial responsibility and stewardship. The manner in which we manage the various resources with which we are entrusted indicates the degree to which we are rooted and growing in Truth – both in the Person, and in the Word.

These four lessons build on the idea that a disciple’s walk with Christ must, by definition, yield the fruit of progressive maturation in the faith. The principles addressed herein are by no means exhaustive; rather they address a general set of behaviors regarding Biblical stewardship, bookended by our great hope of a life surrendered to Christ and our equal hope of an eternity spent with Him.

WEEK 1 Your attitude toward money and possessions evidences who is Lord of your life.

WEEK 2 Your understanding of honor sets the stage for your behavior in giving.

WEEK 3 Your handling of money and possessions reveals your perspective and sense of destiny.

WEEK 4 A legacy of spiritual fulfillment awaits those who would steward righteously.

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In addition, we encourage you to have your class:

- **LOOK IT UP.** Encourage your class or small group to actively follow along in their Bibles. At the same time, it is not always convenient or efficient to have participants turn to every passage referenced via the footnotes. As the facilitator, prepare ahead of time and know what you want them to do. Your personal style of teaching and interaction with your class will dictate the extent to which you have them dive into specific passages. There is no hard-and-fast rule; rather, simply be engaging and keep the course moving.
- **ASK AWAY.** Ask probing follow-up questions to comments and prompt discussion. However, don't get railroaded by "talkers." It is your responsibility to guide the time by keeping the comments on track and the direction for that particular class time very clear.
- **TELL US ABOUT IT.** You have a wonderful opportunity to foster great faith in the sharer and the hearer. Recruit volunteers ahead of time who are willing to share stories and lessons from their lives. Alternately, present them anonymously as released to share by an individual. You should be purposeful about creating an opportunity for testimony to be shared, then celebrated and/or lifted in prayer as appropriate.
- **WRITE IT DOWN.** Employ a whiteboard or large flip-sheet and be prepared before each class (markers, eraser, etc). Take the time to jot down key points, group ideas, and discussion flow. Ask someone in the class to own this particular activity so that you can focus on the class direction and discussion.

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