

Study Guide



The Sacrifice of Giving - Session 3

December 3, 2017

Welcome (40 Minutes)

Be intentional to have authentic relationships...

Worship (5 Minutes)

As the group transitions from of a time of fellowship to a time of intentional study of the word, it is important to facilitate that transition with a time of worship. This can look like praying together, singing songs together, or rejoicing in what the Lord has done throughout the week.

Word (45 Minutes)

Jesus told a story about a hidden treasure that, once discovered, brought life-changing joy. In the video series *The Treasure Principle*, Randy Alcorn unearths a simple yet profound principle that will radically change your concept of stewardship. Alcorn illuminates the liberating joy of giving and its impact, not only for today but for eternity as well. In Community Group we are asking you to watch [The Treasure Principle](#) video series on RightNow Media and discuss biblical stewardship and the questions below. We desire for every Community Group to develop a plan of prayer/fasting extending from Nov. 12, 2017 - Feb. 11, 2018. During your time of prayer/fasting please ask the Lord to (a) show you how much he would have you contribute toward the funds needed, (b) convince 100% of covenant members to give to the gospel ministries budget of NFCC, and (c) provide the amount we need for expansion toward our vision.

Action Step

We desire for every Community Group to develop a plan of prayer/fasting extending from Nov. 12, 2017 - Feb. 11, 2018.

Calendar

December 3rd— Family Christmas Program (10:30am service only)

December 17th— Ordination Service

December 24th— Christmas Service

Welcome (40 Minutes)

As you fellowship with one another, please be intentional about sharing what the Lord is doing in your lives. Get to know one another and encourage one another. Are your conversations pointing one another toward Christ?

Worship (5 Minutes)

If you are looking for a song to sing this week, here are the lyrics to "[All Glory Be to Christ](#)":

Should nothing of our efforts stand
No legacy survive
Unless the Lord does raise the house
In vain its builders strive

To you who boast tomorrow's gain
Tell me, What is your life?
A mist that vanishes at dawn
All glory be to Christ!

All glory be to Christ our king!
All glory be to Christ!
His rule and reign we'll ever sing
All glory be to Christ!

His kingdom come, His will be done
On earth as is above
Who is Himself our daily bread
Praise Him, the Lord of love

Let living water satisfy
The thirsty without price
We'll take a cup of kindness yet
All glory be to Christ!

All glory be to Christ our king!
All glory be to Christ!
His rule and reign we'll ever sing
All glory be to Christ!

When on the day the great I Am
The faithful and the true
The Lamb who was for sinners slain
Is making all things new

Behold our God shall live with us
And be our steadfast light
And we shall e'er his people be
All glory be to Christ!

All glory be to Christ our king!
All glory be to Christ!
His rule and reign we'll ever sing
All glory be to Christ!

Discussion - Watch Video; Read 1 Peter 3:10-13; Hebrews 11:8-10, 11:24-26

1. The third key to the treasure principle is “heaven—not earth—is our true home”. If we fully realize that earth is only a temporary home and heaven is our true, permanent home, and we live in light of that reality, what difference should that make upon our attitudes toward accumulating earthly possessions?
2. Read 1 Peter 3:10-13. How does the world answer the statement posed in verse 10, “whoever desires to love life and see good days should...”? What are some of the many ways that the world answers this question?
3. How does Peter answer this question in verses 10-11?
4. What motivations does Peter identify in verses 11-13 to encourage us to turn away from speaking and doing evil and turning toward doing good and seeking peace? Do these motivations also apply to giving liberally of your resources? Which of these motivations are most important to you?
5. In the real life story in the video, what did Keith and his wife feel led to do with their money? How did God respond to their step of faith? What resulted for Keith and his family from giving away their money rather than hoarding it?
6. Does God promise material rewards in this life to those who give for his kingdom purposes? Is God free to bless his children materially in this life if He so chooses?
7. Randy Alcorn described the fourth key of the treasure principle as: “I should live, not for the dot, but for the line.” What is the dot? What is the line? What’s the difference between living for the dot or for the line?

8. Look at Hebrews 11:8-10. How do these verses describe Abraham's experience of God's promise? What was Abraham looking forward to?

9. In Hebrews 11:24-26 what was Moses looking forward to? How did it impact the way that Moses lived his life? What did he give up? What did he stand to gain?

Application Questions

1. When Paul was asking for material support from the Philippian church (Philippians 4:15-17) what did he say was the deeper reason for asking for their help?

2. Randy Alcorn pointed out that the more we focus on the line—giving sacrificially and investing in God's kingdom—the greater reward there will be for us in our future lives in eternity. How does the idea of rewards in eternity sit with you?

3. If the rewards are God's idea, how do you feel about investing in them? Why?

Walk (30 minutes)

After enjoying fellowship, worship, and time in God's word together, it is now time to pray together as a group and encourage one another in the faith. It is very easy for this portion of the group time to be consumed by the other portions. However, this segment of the group time is crucially important. It answers the question, how do we apply what we are learning in Matthew to our lives today?

Many groups have found that it is helpful to sometimes break up into a men's group and a women's group for the purpose of being able to be more transparent and honest as we encourage one another and keep one another accountable. I encourage you to try this in your groups.

In addition to praying for, and encouraging, one another, this portion of the group time should also be used for planning how your group can participate in God's work outside the walls of our church – "neighbors and nations." Discuss with your group some ideas on how you can be intentional with building relationships with your neighbors and co-workers. What can your Community Group do to impact the area around you?

Here is a list of local ministries Norris Ferry is actively involved in:

Hub/purchased
Young life
Heart of hope
First priority
Ark-la-Tex crisis pregnancy center
Community renewal
Grief counseling
Celebrate recovery
Samaritan counseling
Last call ministries
Golden age ministries
Rescue mission
Luke's lighthouse
FCA

May the Lord bless and encourage you as you are in your groups this week! Know that we are praying for you on a weekly basis and that we are here to help you in any way that we can!

Walk Prayer & Missions

For further information visit
norrisferrychurch.org or contact Jared
Clary (clary@norrisferrychurch.org)

Calendar

November— South Sudan
February 22nd- March 3rd — South Sudan
March 29th- April 1st— NOLA
June— Serve Shreveport
July— Central America