

# Study Guide



## The Spirituality of Giving - Session 2 November 26, 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 "[Nothing But the Blood](#)":

What can wash away my sin?  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;  
What can make me whole again?  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Oh! precious is the flow  
That makes me white as snow;  
No other fount I know,  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

For my cleansing this I see—  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus!  
For my pardon this my plea—  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus!

Nothing can my sin erase  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus!  
Naught of works, 'tis all of grace—  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus!

This is all my hope and peace—  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus!  
This is all my righteousness—  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus!

## Discussion - Read Psalm 24:1; Deuteronomy 8:17-18; 1 Chronicles 29:12-14

1. After watching video #2 –the spirituality of giving, also read Psalm 24:1, Deuteronomy 8:17-18, and 1 Chronicles 29:12-14. In what sense is God the owner of our money according to these verses? What are the practical implications of God being the owner of our money?
2. What is the first Key to the treasure principle?
3. Randy asked the question that, if everything we have belongs to God, shouldn't we be asking Him what He wants us to do with his stuff? Have you ever asked God to show you what He may want you to do with the things he has given you? How would you go about finding those answers?
4. As Christians, we owe our very lives to the generosity of God through Jesus' death and resurrection. Instead of telling God "thanks for saving me" and hoarding our money, what should grace compel us to do?
5. In the real life story, Jennifer responded to the prompting of the Holy Spirit to give rather than get, and she discovered true joy. What kind of impact did Jennifer have on the woman whose prescription she paid for? What difference did it make in Jennifer?
6. Matthew 6:21 forms the second key in the treasure principle: "my heart always goes where I put God's money." How have you understood Matthew 6:21 in the past? What have you heard or understood the cause-and-effect relationship to be?
7. Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-15 and Romans 15:24-28. Describe the situation Paul is talking about in these verses. What response does Paul expect from the Gentile churches?

8. How did Paul describe the circumstances of the people in the churches of Macedonia? What was their emotional response to the appeal to give toward the relief of the Jerusalem church? How did 2Corinthians 8:9 provide a deep motivation for the Corinthian churches to give to the relief effort?
  
9. Look at 1 Timothy 6:17-19. What instructions does Paul give to the rich in these verses? Where should they get their security? How should they store up treasure for themselves? What is the result of living life in that way?

## Application Questions

1. Make an honest list of those things that you're invested in: work, hobbies, or stuff. Order it from biggest investment to least. Next to each, rank the items on a scale from one to ten, with ten being "most kingdom-oriented" and one being "least kingdom oriented." Pick one item and shift your resources toward something more kingdom-centered.
  
2. As you enter into days of fasting with your community group, ask God specifically to reveal to you through the Holy Spirit what you should do to increase your regular giving to the church and/or to make a generous pledge to the building fund. Also ask God to give you the courage and strength to respond when the Holy Spirit does prompt you.

## 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](http://norrisferrychurch.org) or contact Jared  
Clary ([clary@norrisferrychurch.org](mailto:clary@norrisferrychurch.org))

## Calendar

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