

Study Guide



The Joy of Giving - Session 4 December 10, 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 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 "[O Holy Night](#)":

O holy night the stars are brightly shining
It is the night of our dear Saviour's birth
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices
For yonder breaks
A new and glorious morn

Fall on your knees
O hear the angel voices
O night divine
O night when Christ was born

Truly He taught us to love one another
His law is love and His gospel is peace
Chains He shall break
For the slave is our brother
And in His Name
All oppression shall cease
Sweet hymns of joy
In grateful chorus raise we
Let all within us praise His holy Name

Christ is the Lord
O praise His Name forever
His power and glory
Evermore proclaim
His power and glory
Evermore proclaim

Fall on your knees
O hear the angel voices
O night divine
O night when Christ was born
O night divine
O night divine

Discussion - Watch Video; Read Philippians 2:3-11; John 1:11; Romans 5:8

1. The fifth key to the treasure principle says, "Giving is the only antidote to materialism." Why and how is this true? Have you seen key number 5 work in your life? If so how?
2. Have you experienced the freedom that comes with giving? If so, how? What examples have you seen where the act of giving breaks the power of materialism in someone else's life?
3. What do you think of Randy's argument that we need to practice giving to get good at it? Why is the tithe a good starting point for giving and not necessarily a standard to achieve?
4. Bill and Cheryl in the real-life story were blessed with incredible income after they sold a portion of their business. How did Bill and Cheryl's use of their money reflect their attitudes toward giving? What was the result of their giving for the Hope Center? What about for Bill and Cheryl?
5. Read Philippians 2:3-11. What is Paul getting at when he says, "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves"? Is he arguing for a mindset change only? If not, what actions does he expect to accompany the shift in priorities?
6. What does "looking to the interests of others" look like in practice? How does Randy Alcorn's teaching on giving away our blessings relate to "looking to the interests of others"?
7. In verses 5-8 Paul points out the example of Jesus' incarnation as the supreme act of giving to others. What did Jesus give up when he became human?

8. What kind of thanks did Jesus receive for his gift (John 1:11 and Romans 5:8)?

9. Ultimately, according to Philippians 2, what is the result of Jesus' faithful giving of Himself in obedience to God? What is his future reward? Who gets the final glory?

Application Questions

1. The real-life story of Bill and Cheryl illustrated the sixth key of the treasure principle: "God prospers me, not to raise my standard of living, but to raise my standard of giving." In what ways has God made you rich? How could you use those riches to bless others?

2. What can you start doing today, tomorrow, or this week to begin the practice of giving? Who do you need to consult? What conversations do you need to have?

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

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