



Leading People into a Growing Relationship with Jesus Christ!

Series – Blessed: A “How to” Guide
Message – The Test of Blessed
Date – July 16-17, 2016

Learn to take time with the Scripture!

Read out loud in your group:

2 Corinthians 9:6–11 (NLT), “Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don’t give reluctantly or in response to pressure. “For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.” And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.

As the Scriptures say, “They share freely and give generously to the poor. Their good deeds will be remembered forever.” For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you. Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God.

(1) The Principle of Generosity: The seed you keep is all you have, the seed you sow God multiplies.

Do you see what you give to God as a “loss” or as an “investment”?

(2) The Practice of Generosity: I will give God my first and best seed so He can bless the rest.

Do you give when it is convenient, or is your giving 1) planned, 2) a priority, 3) a percentage, and 4) progressive?

(3) The Point of Generosity: I desire to become more like my Heavenly Father!

Which mentality describes your current state of giving?

Childlike: I trust my Father to provide, and I obey when he asks me to share.

Self-sustaining adult: I am my own provider, and I provide for others when I see fit.

Which describes the mentality that God desires?

1 John 4:10–13 (NLT), “This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us. And God has given us his Spirit as proof that we live in him and he in us.



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Live through the Holy Spirit!

Matthew 6:21 (NLT), "Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be."

Understand the progression: you choose what to treasure FIRST. Then your heart begins to desire what you treasure.

What would possess the impoverished widow (Mark 12) to give more than the "rich young ruler" (Mark 10)? She treasured God!

Pastor John said, "When God looks at what is in our wallets, He doesn't see money to be lost but He sees seed to be planted." Take a moment to share with your group what you treasure!

Love with God's resources!

2 Corinthians 9:11 (NLT), "Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous."

Discuss some ways in your group that you can be generous!

Lead by example!

Just as the impoverished widow's gift inspires us thousands of years later, you also influence others through your sacrifice. Saying "no" to something you really want is a powerful statement of what you treasure MORE. Who looks to you to determine what is worth treasuring? How can you encourage them?

Pray!

Acts 2:42 (NLT), "All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer."

Thank God for Pastor John and pray for him and the other elders as they continue to guide Antioch into a greater learning, living, loving and leading of what Jesus gave us through the Apostles!

Thank God for something you appreciate about your group!