

LIFE MONEY HOPE

Part 3:

Big Idea

During this week's *Life, Money, Hope* message, Pastor Chris talks about the importance of intentionality when it comes to giving and generosity. Americans are the richest people in the world – each of us is better off than most – and God has a purpose for us in our wealth. We need to understand that God has blessed us with more than we need *so that* we can be a blessing to others. He's not interested in making us feel guilty for having financial abundance, but He is interested in making us responsible for the gifts we've been given. So how do we decide what to give? Firstly, we need to ask the Relational Question: Who will we commit to relationally? God has placed people around you with whom He desires for you to partner. Make a covenant commitment to supporting certain people in your sphere of influence. Secondly, we need to ask the Difference Question: Will it make an eternal difference? Not all giving is the same, and we need to give in a way that makes a difference in the spiritual and eternal needs of others. Finally, we need to ask the God Question: Is God speaking to me? Make an effort to listen to the voice of God when it comes to opportunities to be generous. When it comes to our personal generosity, we should never be compulsive givers but always decide ahead of time what we will give so that we can be joyful and confident in our giving.

"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." – 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 NIV

Discussion Questions

- God has blessed us abundantly so we can be a blessing to others. Talk about how our generosity can "make a difference" in the community, in the state and even in the world?
- God builds His Kingdom relationally. Share how you can recognize and embrace the people God has placed in your sphere of influence. Now share with the group some practical ways you can meet the spiritual, emotional, and or physical needs of those people.
- Describe the difference between investing in people's financial needs versus investing in their eternal needs. Share some steps you can do to be intentional about doing both.

Prayer Focus

Pray that God would speak to you clearly about how and to whom He wants you to show generosity. Ask for wisdom managing your personal finances and pray that God would show you how to leverage your resources to expand the Kingdom. Ask God to speak to you about the financial values He wants you to uphold in your family. Pray for the ability to walk out those values in everyday life.

Next Step

Pastor Chris set a great example for us this week by writing out his family's commitment to God when it comes to money. Spend some time with your family this week discussing your personal financial values, and take your commitment to these principles to a new level by writing them down.

Leader Tip

Identify those in your group who have leadership potential. Personally invite them to attend Small Group Leadership Training held at Step Four of our Growth Track on the 4th Sunday of every month.