

FOOD FOR THOUGHT *(continued)*

TAKING IT HOME

1. Throughout the Bible, God calls us to return to him FIRST out of what he has entrusted to us before we meet the rest of our financial responsibilities. This “priority giving” is both an act of thanking God for his past provision AND trusting God for his future provision. Can you think of reasons people have for giving out of their “leftovers” rather than giving as a priority?

2. It's natural to think that if we made more money, we would be more generous. But studies show that a rise in income doesn't always mean a rise in giving. How do the following verses help us understand generosity and faith from God's perspective?

BIBLE VERSE:	APPLICATION TO MY LIFE:
Proverbs 3:9-10	
Proverbs 15:22	
Ecclesiastes 5:10	
1 Timothy 6:6-10	

3. Jesus said that intentional generosity fights greed and makes an investment in eternity that can never be taken away. **LET'S GET PERSONAL...** when it comes to generosity, what is your biggest fear or barrier to becoming the most generous person you can be? How do you think your heart and relationships will be affected if you don't overcome greed and practice generosity?

MESSAGE NOTES

Emotional Health // Week 3

You cannot be spiritually mature & remain emotionally _____.

MEMORY VERSE:

*Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it. **Proverbs 4:23***

Greed says, “_____”.

*Yet true godliness with contentment is itself great wealth. After all, we brought nothing with us when we came into the world, and we can't take anything with us when we leave it. So if we have enough food and clothing, let us be content. But people who long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows. **1 Timothy 6:6-10***

How to overcome greed:

1. Recognize all you have been _____.

*Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. **1 Timothy 6:17***

2. Trust in _____, not your _____.

*Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. **1 Timothy 6:17***

3. Regularly practice _____.

*Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others. **1 Timothy 6:18***

4. Develop an _____ perspective.

*By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life. **1 Timothy 6:19***



MESSAGE NOTES *(continued)*

How to practice consistent generosity:

1. Give back to God _____.

*Honor God with everything you own; give him the first and the best. **Proverbs 3:9***

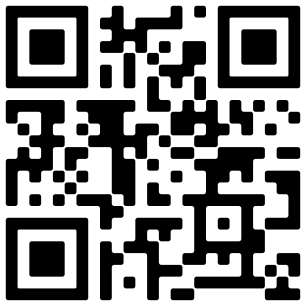
*Wealth and honor come from you alone, for you rule over everything. But who am I, and who are my people, that we could give anything to you? Everything we have has come from you, and we give you only what you first gave us! **1 Chronicles 29:12-14***

2. Give back to God a _____.

Make an offering of ten percent, a tithe... bring this into the presence of God... in this way you will learn to live in deep reverence before God as long as you live.

Deuteronomy 14:23

DOWNLOAD THE CHURCH CENTER APP



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Many of our Groups are on break for the holidays. During this season, use these questions to facilitate discussion with your Group or for personal study.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. As you reflect on the talk from Sunday, was there anything that particularly stood out to you, challenged you, or confused you?

2. Is there any area of your life where you've confused a "WANT" for a "NEED"? Something you WANT to have, but you've convinced yourself you NEED it?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. *Those who love money will never have enough. How meaningless to think that wealth brings true happiness! **Ecclesiastes 5:10***

How do you think our understanding of "wealth" or "extra" has affected how we live our lives as Americans?

2. Read **Matthew 6:19-33**. This is one of Jesus' main teachings on money and possessions. In your opinion, why does Jesus spend so much time on this topic? How would you summarize the message contained in Jesus' words if he were speaking to us today?

"Be doers of the word and not hearers..." **James 1:22**

