

FOOD FOR THOUGHT *(continued)*

TAKING IT HOME

1. Throughout the Scriptures, we are encouraged to give to God FIRST before we meet the rest of our financial responsibilities. This “giving off the top” is both an act of thanking God for his current provision AND a way of trusting him for future provision. YET, throughout history, many of God’s people have given to his work primarily out of what is left over.

What is most challenging to you about “giving off the top”? How could you change the order of your buckets to align your finances around generosity?

2. It’s natural to think that if we had more money, we would be more generous, but studies show that a rise in income doesn’t equate to a rise in generosity. What application can you take from the following verses for your life today?

SCRIPTURE:	APPLICATION:
1 Timothy 6:6-8	
Proverbs 3:9-10	
Matthew 6:19-21	
1 Timothy 6:17-19	

3. What did you personally need to hear the most from this message? What is your next right step of obedience?

MESSAGE NOTES

You Matter // Week 3

MEMORY VERSE:

“...I will build my church, & not even death will be able to overcome it.” - **Matthew 16:18**

2 mindsets around money:

_____ VS _____

3 perspectives on generosity:

1. I _____ to _____.

2. I _____ to _____.

3. I _____ to _____.

“Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own.” Then he told them a story: “A rich man had a fertile farm that produced fine crops. He said to himself, ‘What should I do? I don’t have room for all my crops.’ Then he said, ‘I know! I’ll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I’ll have room enough to store all my wheat and other goods. And I’ll sit back and say to myself, ‘My friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry!’”

*“But God said to him, ‘You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get everything you worked for?’ Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God.” **Luke 12:15-21***

The wrong question: “Do I have _____ to give?”

The right question: “Do I _____ God with what I have?”

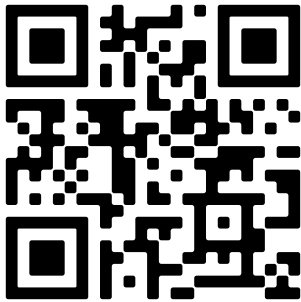
*Honor God with everything you own; give him the first and the best. **Proverbs 3:9***

The miracle is in the _____, not the _____.

*Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. 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. 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 6:17-19***

PERSONAL NOTES

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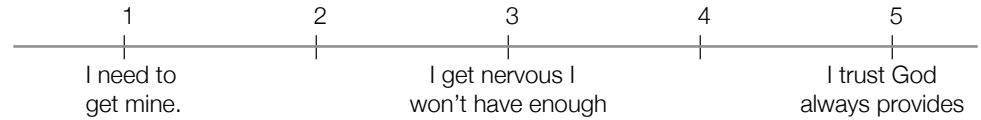
FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Many of our Groups are on break for the summer. We encourage you to take these questions home with you and **WRITE DOWN YOUR ANSWERS**. Use it for personal study, or with your Group if you are still meeting.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. Can you think of a time when you thought a material possession would make you happy? (We've all thought it!) Did you acquire that possession? If so, how long did your happiness last?

2. When it comes to **ABUNDANCE** vs. **SCARCITY**, where do you land on the scale?



DIGGING DEEPER

1. Read **Ecclesiastes 5:10-15**. Is there any part of this that resonates with you? If so, which part?

2. Read **Luke 16:10-13**. What are some of the reasons you believe it's so tempting for us to prioritize money and stuff over generosity?

“Be doers of the word and not hearers only...” *James 1:22*

