

THE BLESSED LIFE

Big Idea

The key to the blessed life is a heart of generosity. The Bible says in Acts 20:35 (NIV) that It is more blessed **to give** than **to receive**.

There are three mindsets when it comes to giving

1. The **bag mindset**: We don't have enough
2. The **basket mindset**: We have more than enough
3. The **barn mindset**; God is infinitely more than enough

The bag mindset results in us never having enough because we never give enough. The basket mindset leads us to a find need that exists and to fill it. The barn mindset opens up the windows of heaven to bless us beyond our wildest imaginations.

Tithers say, "I'm blessed," while the non-tithers say, "I can't afford to tithe. Pastor Chris stated that, "*We will never be able to afford to tithe until we tithe.*" When we are not generous with what God has allowed us to have, we rob God of *an opportunity to bless us*.

Scripture

- **Proverbs 11:24-25 (NIV)**

One man **gives freely**, yet **gains even more**; another withholds unduly, but **comes to poverty**. A **generous man** will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.

- **Corinthians 9:6-8, 11 (NIV)**

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows **generously** will also **reap generously**. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a **cheerful** giver. And God is able to make **all grace** abound to you, so that in **all things at all times**, having **all that you need**, you will abound in **every good work**...You will be made rich in **every way** so that you can **be generous on every occasion**, and through your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

- **Luke 16:10-11 (NIV)**

Whoever can be trusted with **very little** can also be trusted with **much**, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So if you have not been **trustworthy** in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with **true riches**?

- **Proverbs 3:9-10 (NIV)**

Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the **firstfruits** of all your crops; **then your barns will be filled to overflowing**...

Discussion Questions

- Think about a time when you had the opportunity to give to someone. What was it about that experience that made it more of a blessing to give than to receive?
- Consider the promise in *Luke 6:38* "Give, and you will receive." How have you seen generosity returned in the form of it being "*pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap*"?
- The Lord, in Deuteronomy 28:8, indicates that he "*will send a blessing on your barns and on everything you put your hand to...*" What are your barns and what is meant by everything?

Prayer Focus

Heavenly Father, thank you for how you have blessed our lives. There is nothing that we could ever give that compares to the gift that you gave us - Your only Son - so that we could know you and experience the power of your forgiveness. Open my eyes and ears and heart so that I see opportunities to show your love to those who need You both here and for eternity. In Jesus' name, I pray, amen.

Next Steps

As we enter this season of Thanksgiving and Christmas, we are presented many opportunities to be generous. Prayerfully consider which opportunities will allow others to experience the love and generosity of the Father, and make a difference in their lives for eternity.

Leader Tip

There is a difference between giving and cheerfully giving. Encourage your group to intentionally be cheerful when giving tithes and offerings and alms. This intentionality will result in huge dividends, the biggest being the way they view God's provisions to them and to others.