



Message 3: The Why Behind Giving

Announcements

Fall Small Group Semester // August 28–December 9th // Help others connected quickly this fall into a small group. Let us know your plans for the fall. Go to cotkleaders.com.

Warm up

Share with the group about a time when you received a gift that meant so much to you, not because of the value, but because of the meaning behind the gift.

This week we will continue with the third week in our series, *Lean In: The WHY Behind the WHAT*. Today our discussion revolves around *The Why Behind Giving*.

Word and Application

We spend a lot of time investing in things we value, like our bank accounts, marriage, family, career, education, etc. But how do we invest spiritually? Let's look closely at scripture that shows us how and why God designed us to give, and to give generously.

Read Acts 2:45 & Philippians 2:4.

God created us to give because giving gets our eyes focused off ourselves and on to others. When we give, we can discover the big picture for our purpose in life. In fact, looking to the needs of others is where our attention should be given. Brainstorm with the group on how the group as the whole can give to others in need. (Hint: this could be as simple as joining a Second Saturday SERVE project (ChurchoftheKing.com/satserve), donating groceries to someone in need, giving of your time to tutor or serve, or donating a Back to School supplies (churchoftheking.com/backtoschool))

Five Components Of Giving

1. The revelation of giving.

Read 2 Corinthians 9:7 & Matthew 16:17. We have received more from God than we can possibly give ourselves. We have to trust that God will give us enough to be generous. It is a heart issue. When we realize that God is able to give us more than we can ever need then our heart wants to give generously to others. Share with the group about a time where you made the choice to trust God and give even when you didn't know how it was going to work out with your own needs.

2. The affection of giving.

Read Colossians 3:2, Luke 12:21 Philippians 2:3 & Matthew 27:57-58.

There is a battle inside each of us for where to set our affection. What does the world tell us about our needs and the needs of others? Contrast this to what God says about our needs and the needs of others.

How can trusting God and looking to Him when we have needs transform our life and then lives of others around us? How can receiving financial blessings change the affection of our heart?

3. The compassion of giving.

Read 2 Corinthians 8:9. We need to go where God tells us. We need to give to those God places on our heart. We are commanded to lay aside prejudice and give with compassion. Share a time with the group when you gave to someone most people would have ignored. Or when you gave to someone who could not return

4. The conviction of giving.

Read Philippians 4:19 & Psalm 37:25. Giving overcomes fears and greed. When we have the conviction that God will meet all our needs, it changes our mindset to not keep everything for ourselves but to be generous. How can having a poverty mentality stop us from having a closer relationship with Christ? Discuss with the group any areas where you feel you are worrying about money instead of trusting that God will take care of the situation. What would your life look like if you invested in a life that gives openly, knowing that God is in control of all?

5. The reflection of giving.

Luke 22:42-44. Jesus was an example for us. He cried out for God's will to be done and not His own. When He did, God strengthened Him. Discuss as a group how we can become more generous in giving to the Kingdom? When we are generous how does that impact our relationship with God?

What is God asking you to give to Him in order to build your trust in Him and to set you free to give generously to others?

Prayer

Thank the Lord for all that He has provided for you. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you areas of your life where you can increase your giving. Pray for specific needs of the group.