

## July 2021 CONNECTION GUIDE

### **Sacrificial Giving**

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#### Icebreakers

- What is one of the favorite gifts you have ever been given?
- What is one of the favorite gifts you have ever given someone else?

#### Whole-Life-Giving

Most people associate Christian teaching on giving with money; and some have negative feelings about this. A full understanding of sacrificial giving from a Biblical point-of-view is **whole-life-giving**, or in other words, giving to God from every area of your life; calendar, vocation, relationships, and resources. As you consider the scriptures and questions below, look to see if you can recognize this **whole-life-giving**.

#### **2 Corinthians 8:1-5** New Living Translation (NLT)

<sup>1</sup> Now I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, what God in his kindness has done through the churches in Macedonia. <sup>2</sup> They are being tested by many troubles, and they are very poor. But they are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity. <sup>3</sup> For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford, but far more. And they did it of their own free will. <sup>4</sup> They begged us again and again for the privilege of sharing in the gift for the believers in Jerusalem. <sup>5</sup> They even did more than we had hoped, for their first action was to give themselves to the Lord and to us, just as God wanted them to do.

#### **Matthew 25:34-40** Holman Christian Standard Bible (HCSB)

<sup>34</sup> Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed by My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. <sup>35</sup> For I was hungry and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; <sup>36</sup> I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you took care of Me; I was in prison and you visited Me.' <sup>37</sup> "Then the righteous will answer Him, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You something to drink? <sup>38</sup> When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or without clothes and clothe You? <sup>39</sup> When did we see You sick, or in prison, and visit You?' <sup>40</sup> "And the King will answer them, 'I assure you: Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of Mine, you did for Me.'

#### Discussion Questions

- **What was “given” in the scripture stories listed above?**
- **What distinguishes a gift as “sacrificial”?**

#### Jesus' example of Sacrificial Giving

#### **Philippians 2:5-8** New Century Version (NCV)

<sup>5</sup> In your lives you must think and act like Christ Jesus. <sup>6</sup> Christ himself was like God in everything. But he did not think that being equal with God was something to be used for his own benefit. <sup>7</sup> But he gave up his place with God and made himself nothing. He was born to be a man and became like a servant. <sup>8</sup> And when he was living as a man, he humbled himself and was fully obedient to God, even when that caused his death -- death on a cross.

#### **Romans 5:7-8** New International Version (NIV)

<sup>7</sup> Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. <sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

#### **2 Corinthians 5:21** (NLT)

<sup>21</sup> For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

#### Discussion Questions

- **Who was Jesus?**
- **What did Jesus give?**
- **Can you describe a time when you have given sacrificially?**

## Owner vs. Manager

*"God is the Source, Provider and Creator, and He is the Owner and Investor who entrusts us with worldly wealth. Understanding that God is the true owner of your money is the first principle of managing it well, and understanding what it means to be a good steward is second. We are merely charged to take care of God's possessions. Our role is to wisely manage and invest on God's behalf all the wealth He gives us. This means we need to treat the money we handle; paychecks, gifts, inheritances, etc., wisely to accomplish God's purposes."*  
(an excerpt from Rooted: Connection with God, The Church, Your Purpose page 158)

### **Psalm 24:1** (NCV)

The earth belongs to the Lord, and everything in it -- the world and all its people.

### Discussion Questions

- **What is the difference between an Owner and a Manager?**
- **Who is someone who was a good example to you of manager vs owner?**
- **What is one thing you could do to be a manager of God's resources. Think of this question with the "whole-life-giving" definition in mind.**

## Sacrificial Giving; one man's definition

*"What is sacrificial giving? Sacrificial giving is giving beyond our means. It's no secret that we are part of a generation known for living beyond our means. What would happen if we all determined to change one letter in that phrase? From Living beyond our means to Giving beyond our means? Let me say it this way: If your giving to the Lord does not hurt, or infringe upon the comfort level of your lifestyle, then it's not sacrificial. If your giving does not stretch you, and stress your faith, then it most likely is not sacrificial. Remember, faith is a muscle. If you never go to the gym then don't expect to be able to bench press more than 100 pounds. With that analogy in mind, if you're unwilling to take the risk of stretching your faith then your spiritual growth will be stunted, and eventually your faith muscle will atrophy." (Pastor Paul Tautges)*

### Discussion Questions

- **How might you go from "living beyond your means, to giving beyond your means"?**
- **Who is someone who is an example to you of "giving beyond their means"?**

## So What Now?

In the coming month(s), commit to sacrificially give an offering to God from two, or more, of the following areas:

- Vocation
- Relationship
- Calendar
- Finances (see below)

Are you currently tithing? If yes, we challenge you to give sacrificially, above and beyond your tithe, to one of the following organizations:

- **Free Methodist World Missions:** <https://www.fmwm.org>
- **International Child Care Ministries:** <https://www.childcareministries.org>
- **SEED:** <https://seedlivelihood.org>
- **Set Free Movement:** <https://www.setfreemovement.com>

If you are not currently practicing the spiritual rhythm of tithing, we challenge you to begin to give God a tithe (10%) to your home Church. If QFMC is your home church, you can give online at: <https://www.qfmc.org/online-giving/>

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## Deeper study and more resources

- Giving & Receiving - Tim Mackie (The Bible Project): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NJeuFZIEmlc>

## Questions for the Pastors and Staff?

If you would like contact from one of our pastors or staff, we invite you to reach out to any or all of us.

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