



The Week of April 25, 2021 Giving Conversation Guide

This Week's Take-Aways

- **I am generous:** (Luke 6:38) I give freely of what God has given to me. I invest in the ministry of the church locally and globally. I seek to meet the needs of those around me, sharing what God has given me.
- **I am in prayer:** (Philippians 4:6) I regularly pray to God to better know Him and His direction for my life.
- **I place God's priorities above my own:** (Matthew 6:33) I will place God's priorities as described in the Bible ahead of my own.

Intro Questions

- Do you have any GameStop stock? How about BitCoin?
- The kids were given supplies to make Giving, Saving, and Spending jars. If you had a jar for your Giving, Saving, and Spending how big would each jar be?
- What is the difference between a steward and an owner? Who owns it all?
- How scary is it to invest when the future is uncertain?
- How scary is it to step out in faith and invest in something intangible?

Jeremiah's Real Estate Story

- Read Jeremiah 1:5-8 (ESV)

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." Then I said, "Ah, Lord God! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth." But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a youth'; for to all to whom I send you, you shall go, and whatever I command you, you shall speak. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, declares the Lord."

- Jeremiah ended up with the job no one would ever want. What was the difficult job that God was calling him to do for the next 19 years?
 - In Pastor David's message, he talked about Jeremiah having to preach (prophesy) to his people about the horrible things that were coming because of their sinfulness. How difficult would it have been to be the bearer of such bad news?
- Read Jeremiah 20:9 (CSB)

I say "I won't mention him or speak any longer in his name." But his message become a fire burning in my heart, shut up in my bones. I become tired of holding it in and I cannot prevail.

- What was Jeremiah's experience in trying not to fulfill his calling?
 - Has there been a difficult conversation that God has led you to have with someone that you have tried to avoid?
- Read Jeremiah 32:3-8 (CSB) When Jeremiah saw the army outside, he said...
- This is what the Lord says: "I am about to hand this city over to the king of Babylon, and he will take it. King Zedekiah will be captured by the Babylonians and taken to meet the king of Babylon face to face. He will take Zedekiah to Babylon, and I will deal with him there," says the Lord. If you fight against the Babylonians, you will never succeed."*
- Jeremiah replied, "The word of the Lord came to me: Watch! Hanamel, the son of your uncle Shallum, is coming to you to say, 'Buy my field in Anathoth for yourself, for you own the right of redemption to buy it.' "Then, as the Lord had said, my cousin Hanamel came to the guard's courtyard and urged me, 'Please buy my field in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, for you own the right of inheritance and redemption. Buy it for yourself.' Then I knew that this was the word of the Lord.*
- Pastor David made the point that this property was probably behind enemy lines. How crazy was it for Jeremiah to fulfill God's direction in this passage?
 - Has God ever asked you to do anything against "conventional wisdom" that stretched your faith?
 - Jeremiah was a Levite- a preacher's kid. Would this have been an easy purchase financially?
 - Jeremiah trusted God and His word more than the circumstances around him so he was willing to invest in what God told him to.

Investing in the Future

Pastor David gave us two kinds of biblical giving.

1. The Tithe

- Read Malachi 3:10

“Bring the full tenth in to the storehouse so that there may be food in My house. Test Me in this way,” says the Lord of Hosts. “See if I will not open the floodgates of heaven and pour out a blessing for you without measure.”

- What is God’s promise to us if we are generous with what He’s given us?
- What does God ask us to test him on?
- What are some blessings you have seen when you were faithful in generosity?
- Are those blessings necessarily financial or are they something more valuable?

2. The Offering

- Read 1 Corinthians 16:2

On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income...

- What frequency did Paul ask them to give?
- What amount did Paul ask them to give?
- What are practical ways to “set aside” money to be consistent?

- Read 1 Chronicles 29:3-4

And now, because of my devotion to the Temple of my God, I am giving all of my own private treasures of gold and silver to help in the construction. This is in addition to the building materials I have already collected for his holy Temple. I am donating more than 112 tons of gold from Ophir and 262 tons of refined silver to be used for overlaying the walls of the buildings.

- How generous was King David’s offering?
- Jesus warned of that riches could keep us entering the kingdom of God (Matthew 19:24). How does giving proportionally break the grasp of riches on our hearts and free us to be used by God in His kingdom?

- Read Mark 14:3-9

While he was in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, as he was reclining at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured it on his head. But some were expressing indignation to one another: “Why has this perfume been wasted? For this perfume might have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor.” And they began to scold her.

Jesus replied, "Leave her alone. Why are you bothering her? She has done a noble thing for me. You always have the poor with you, and you can do what is good for them whenever you want, but you do not always have me. She has done what she could; she has anointed my body in advance for burial. Truly I tell you, wherever the gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will also be told in memory of her."

- How generous was the woman's offering?
- Pastor David said this woman was most likely not wealthy. If a "denarius" is equal to one day's wage, what kind of sacrifice was this for her to worship Jesus?
- What are practical ways to "set aside" money to be consistent?

Next Steps

- Read 2 Corinthians 9:7

Each person should do as he has decided in his heart – not reluctantly or out of compulsion, since God loves a cheerful giver.
- Read Matthew 6:19-21

"Don't store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves don't break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
- God doesn't need our money. He's after our hearts and seeing us put Him first.
- Pastor David said, "When I give, I'm demonstrating my confidence in the fact that God is still very much at work. I don't fear the future. I don't over react to the future. So when I invest in the future, I'm demonstrating my confidence that God is at work."
- If you didn't get to attend on of the Live Boldly Loft Meeting, watch Pastor David's presentation here: https://youtu.be/NA2z_quAexc
- Take time this week to pray about the Next Steps that God would have you take in your generosity.
- [Click here for a copy of the Goal card](#) or find it on the

GIVE

