

Discussion Guide



Ice Breaker What were your favorite Christmas traditions growing up, and why do you think they meant so much to you?

1. People have all kinds of responses when the words “giving” and “church” are used on a Sunday, let alone in a message. What is your first response to the idea that giving is not just important to the church, but to you as well?
2. Read Genesis 1:26-27. Pastor Tom talked about the Transitive Property of Equality and how, since we are made in God’s image that our souls are hard wired to be giving. How does this confirm or challenge your thinking about the concept of giving?
3. Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-11. Being a cheerful giver brings joy to everyone, but especially our heavenly Father. What are some ways you have found joy as you’ve given, or how have you found it difficult to be a cheerful giver?
4. Read James 1:17-18, Philippians 4:14-18. How does having the facts around what you “own” make it easier to be a giver? Can you see how this puts you in a “bless-able” position? Discuss with your group how these things can be personally lived out, and what that would look like.
5. Pastor Tom shared how giving allows us to see what truly matters, and how giving is really us responding to God’s invitation to partner with Him to save the world! How has God challenged your thinking about partnering with Him through your giving?

Personal Guide

Day 1: Read Psalm 31

Day 2: Read Psalm 32

Day 3: Read Psalm 33

Day 4: Read Psalm 34

Day 5: Read Psalm 35

do your
DOLLARS
make-sense?



**MESSAGE NOTES & SMALL GROUP
DISCUSSION // PERSONAL GUIDES**

“When You Give...”
December 9, 2018



“When You Give...”
[Tom Lundeen, Senior Pastor]

MESSAGE NOTES

...it's impossible to do an honest series about answering the question, “Do my dollars make sense?” from _____ perspective and ignore the topic of giving.

I want to help you understand what happens when you give to God's work in and through _____.

When you give to God's work:

1. You Fulfill Your _____

Transitive Property of E _____ (If A=B and B=C, then _____=_____)

Note Genesis 1:26-27

Despite the fact that every person has spiritually defective DNA, we all still retain deep inside us God's image that causes us to _____ Him in some ways.

A= You were _____ in God's image.

B= God's nature is o _____ generosity (*note I John 4:8 and John 3:16*).

C= There's something deep inside you that's _____ for giving/generosity.

Giving is h _____ -w _____ in our souls.

2. You Give God _____

Note I John 3:1a

Note II Corinthians 9:7b

God loves it when we open our hand instead of clenching our fist; when we give willingly instead of saying, “That's _____”.

3. You Put Yourself in a “B _____ -A _____” Place

We need to see the clear connection between our generosity and God providing for our _____ (*note Philippians 4:14-19*).

Note Romans 8:32

If the best things in life can't be bought with money, perhaps God's most _____ blessings are not money and stuff.

4. You See More Clearly What _____

We often have “b _____ r _____”, but rarely regret something we give (*note Matthew 6:21*).

_____ isn't just a financial issue.

It's primarily a _____ issue.

Where we send our money identifies what we _____.

When you and I give, it shifts our perspective to _____.

5. You _____ With God

God doesn't need your permission to _____ your resources.

If he knows how many hairs are on your head, He knows your online banking _____!

While God doesn't need us, He _____ us to participate.

When you give...you _____ with God in His mission.

And when you give, you're a part of what God is doing e _____.

Do Your Dollars Make Sense?:

- Take a first step, a renewed step, a next step, a sacrificial step, a _____ step and participate in our special Christmas offering (see details on card).
- Give to both the Fuel for Ministry and Fuel for Missions funds.

We have resources available to help you have your dollars start making sense. Check out the bookshelves in the foyer.

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey. You can also use the Connect Card to let us know about your commitment, too!



“When You Give...” [Tom Lundeen, Senior Pastor]

MESSAGE NOTES

...it's impossible to do an honest series about answering the question, “Do my dollars make sense?” from God's perspective and ignore the topic of giving.

I want to help you understand what happens when you give to God's work in and through His church.
When you give to God's work:

1. You Fulfill Your Purpose

Transitive Property of Equality (If A=B and B=C, then A=C)
Note Genesis 1:26-27

Despite the fact that every person has spiritually defective DNA, we all still retain deep inside us God's image that causes us to resemble Him in some ways.

A=You were created in God's image.
B=God's nature is overflowing generosity (note 1 John 4:8 and John 3:16).
C=There's something deep inside you that's wired for giving/generosity.

Giving is hard-wired in our souls.

2. You Give God Joy

Note 1 John 3:1a
Note 2 Corinthians 9:7b

God loves it when we open our hand instead of clenching our fist; when we give willingly instead of saying, “That's mine”.

3. You Put Yourself in a “Bless-Able” Place

We need to see the clear connection between our generosity and God providing for our needs (note Philippians 4:14-19).
Note Romans 8:32

If the best things in life can't be bought with money, perhaps God's most important blessings are not money and stuff.

4. You See More Clearly What Matters

We often have “buyer's regret”, but rarely regret something we give (note Matthew 6:21).
Money isn't just a financial issue.
It's primarily a spiritual issue.

Where we send our money identifies what we value.
When you and I give, it shifts our perspective to eternity.

5. You Partner With God

God doesn't need your permission to access your resources.
If He knows how many hairs are on your head, He knows your online banking password!
While God doesn't need us, He invites us to participate.

When you give...you join with God in His mission.
And when you give, you're a part of what God is doing everywhere.

Do Your Dollars Make Sense?:

- Take a first step, a renewed step, a next step, a sacrificial step, a faith step and participate in our special Christmas offering (see details on card).
- Give to both the Fuel for Ministry and Fuel for Missions funds.

We have resources available to help you have your dollars start making sense. Check out the bookshelves in the foyer.

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey. You can also use the Connect Card to let us know about your commitment, too!