

## “The Church is After Your Money.”

Series: *Five Lies from the Devil*

(Part 2 of 5)

**Discussion Starter:** Money means: a) ...having the freedom to do what I want, b) ...security, c) ...success and power, or d) ...being able to give to others.

**Explore:** Read Matthew 6:25-34.

1. What three worries did Jesus discourage among His followers (vs. 25)? Why do you think He said this?
2. How did Jesus illustrate God’s reliability as a great provider (vs. 26-30)? If God knows our needs, why do we worry so much?
3. What is the promise Jesus gives to those who seek the Kingdom of God and put their trust in Him first (vs. 31-34)? How would you respond to someone who interprets this passage to mean *God promises to give His children everything their heart desires*?
4. What connection do you see between giving and worry?

**Reflect:** Review the LG and discuss the questions below.

1. What do you believe are some common obstacles / challenges people face when it comes to giving to the church?
2. Do you believe most people give to God from the first part or the last part of their check? Does it make a difference?
3. How has your attitude about giving changed over the years? Of the 6 reasons mentioned in the lesson, which point made the greatest impression on you? Explain.
4. Jesus said it is more blessed to “*give than to receive.*” Describe a time in which you, your family, or your CARE Group have personally experienced this truth.
5. Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 and answer the following question. How would you rate your willingness to give to God? What is one thing holding you back from being able to give, tithe, or be more generous with others?

**Live:**

As a group: Sub-group into gender friendly groups for this question. When it comes to giving, I need to: a) grow to trust God more than money, b) make the decision to start giving regularly, or c) increase my cheerfulness about opportunities to give. How can we pray for one another in the area of giving?

On your own: Thank God for His continued provision in your life. Read through Matthew 6:25-34 everyday over the next week. Make the decision to trust God in the area of your finances.

## Listening Guide Notes

How giving makes me a better person...

1. Giving makes me more like Jesus.

“*God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*” –**John 3:16 (NIV)**

2. Giving draws me closer to God.

“*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*”  
–**Matthew 6:21 (NIV)**

3. Giving is the antidote to greed.

<sup>[17]</sup> “*Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.*

<sup>[18]</sup> “*Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.*” –**1 Timothy 6:17-18 (NIV)**

4. Giving strengthens my faith.

“*Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,’ says the LORD Almighty, ‘and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.’*” –**Malachi 3:10 (NIV)**

5. Giving is an investment for eternity.

<sup>[18]</sup> “*Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.*” <sup>[19]</sup> “*In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.*” –**1 Timothy 6:18-19 (NIV)**

6. Giving blesses me.

“*...Remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’*” –**Acts 20:35 (NIV)**

## **How to get bang out of God's buck...**

*<sup>[6]</sup> "Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. <sup>[7]</sup> Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." –2 Corinthians 9:6-7 (NIV)*