



Small Group Discussion Guide

ICE BREAKER: What one thing impacted you this past weekend during Riverside's production of "A Christmas Carol?"

INSTRUCTIONS: If your group meets bi-weekly, do 1 & 4.

1. Read Matthew 6:19-21. What is the difference between material and eternal wealth? What makes eternal wealth more desirable than material wealth? How does a giving attitude build eternal wealth? Pastor Tom stated, "Jesus knows that our attitude about giving is a magnifying glass into 'the window of our soul.'" If that magnifying glass were shown on your heart, what would it find?
2. Read Luke 20:1-8, 20-26, 27-40 and 45-47. Pastor Tom explained that Jesus wants our giving to be a true reflection of how we handle money, our attitude toward possessions and how we treat other people. What was wrong with the Pharisees' hearts that allowed them to continually miss the message of Jesus? Why is it important to view the offering on Sunday as "Happy Hour?" What should our hearts look like when the offering basket passes in front of us?
3. Read Luke 21:1-4. According to Pastor Tom, why does Jesus notice the poor widow and not the rich people who put large amounts of money in the temple collection boxes? What makes this poor widow different from the others? How is her giving a reflection of her faith? Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-4. How does the giving of the Macedonian church reflect their attitude toward wealth, possessions and how they wish to treat others? What lessons can we learn from the poor widow and the Macedonian Church?
4. Read 2 Corinthians 8:9. How should Jesus' example affect our behavior? This sermon series "This is Why" casts a vision for Riversiders about how our multisite vision affects us as a church family and how we are to respond to that vision. Why is financial generosity not optional for those of us who call Riverside our home? Why is 100% participation our goal? Pastor Tom noted, "Jesus is carefully observing how we handle money, or how it handles us." What steps can you take to ensure that you are handling your money and not the other way around? How can your group help you achieve your financial goals?

Personal Guide for Week of December 10th

DAY 1 - Read Matthew 6:19-24. What do these verses say about how we should view wealth?

DAY 2 - Read Deuteronomy 15:7-11. See how God wanted the Israelites to handle their wealth and treat others.

DAY 3 - Read Luke 12:16-21. According to Jesus, what happens to excessive wealth when it is not used for God's purposes?

DAY 4 - Read Malachi 3:6-12. What does God promise Israel if they "bring the whole tithe"?

DAY 5 - Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19. What should our attitude be toward wealth?

This
is
Why

ONE CHURCH. MULTIPLE CAMPUSES. ONE FAMILY.

MESSAGE NOTES // SMALL GROUP
DISCUSSION & PERSONAL GUIDES

"This Is Why: We Give"

Week of 12/10/17



“This is Why: We Give”
[Tom Lundeen, Senior Pastor]

Note Mark 1:38 and John 3:16

While even Jesus’ followers can sometimes struggle with money issues in general and _____ specifically, Jesus never shies away from this critical topic because Jesus knows that our attitude about giving is a magnifying glass into “the w_____ of our soul” (note Matthew 6:19-21).

Note Luke 21:1; Mark 12:41-44 = “carefully o_____”

...what is Jesus looking for during “_____ Hour”?

1. I _____

Note Luke 20:1-47

In Jesus’ day, a _____ was probably the most vulnerable member of society...

“temple courts” = the court of _____” (Luke 20:1)

Note Luke 21:1

...hypocrisy drives us to “_____” externally.

Jesus wants our giving to be a true _____ of how we handle money, our attitude towards possessions, and how we treat other people.

Without integrity, our giving is m_____.

2. _____

Note Luke 20:47; 21:2

2 “I_____” (worth very little, about _____ of a cent)

Luke 21:3 (literal = she gave more than all of them _____)

Note Mark 12:41

Note Luke 21:4

This poor widow believed that:

- A. God would _____ for her needs.
- B. All that she had _____ to God

It is always _____ that grabs God’s attention...

Note II Corinthians 8:1-4, 12

God is much more interested in the _____ we keep for ourselves than the amount we give.

Note II Corinthians 8:9

This is Why:

- What did Jesus see today/this week when it comes to our practice of generosity?
- Jesus is carefully observing how we h_____ money, or how it h_____ us...
- When it comes to our *This is Why* multisite vision, financial generosity cannot be an _____ for everyone here who calls Riverside their church home.
- _____% participation is our goal.
- Giving is personal, but never _____.

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey.

Prayerfully consider the next step God wants you to take in generosity. Use the special *This is Why* brochure and commitment card to indicate how God is working in your life in this area. Remember that our special Christmas/Year-End offering will be received starting next Sunday through Dec 31st.



“This is Why: We Give” Tom Lundeen, Senior Pastor

MESSAGE NOTES

Note Mark 1:38 and John 3:16

While even Jesus' followers can sometimes struggle with money issues in general and giving specifically, Jesus never shies away from this critical topic because Jesus knows that our attitude about giving is a magnifying glass into “the window of our soul” (note Matthew 6:19-21).

Note Luke 21:1; Mark 12:41-44 = “carefully observing”

...what is Jesus looking for during “Happy Hour”?

1. Integrity

Note Luke 20:1-47

In Jesus' day, a widow was probably the most vulnerable member of society...

“temple courts” = “the court of women” (Luke 20:1)

Note Luke 21:1

...hypocrisy drives us to “look good” externally.

Jesus wants our giving to be a true reflection of how we handle money, our attitude towards possessions, and how we treat other people.

Without integrity, our giving is meaningless.

2. Faith

Note Luke 20:47; 21:2

2 “lepta” (worth very little, about 1/8th of a cent)

Luke 21:3 (literal = she gave more than all of them together)

Note Mark 12:41

Note Luke 21:4

This poor widow believed that:

- A. God would provide for her needs.
- B. All that she had belonged to God.

It is always faith that grabs God's attention...

Note 2 Corinthians 8:1-4, 12

God is much more interested in the amount we keep for ourselves than the amount we give.

Note 2 Corinthians 8:9

This is Why:

- What did Jesus see today/this week when it comes to our practice of generosity.
- Jesus is carefully observing how we handle money, or how it handles us...
- When it comes to our *This is Why* multisite vision, financial generosity cannot be an option for everyone here who calls Riverside their church home.
- 100% participation is our goal.
- Giving is personal, but never private.

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey. Prayerfully consider the next step God wants you to take in generosity. Use the special *This is Why* brochure and commitment card to indicate how God is working in your life in this area. Remember that our special Christmas/Year-End offering will be received starting next Sunday through Dec. 31st.