

LESSON 4
Learners' Guide

40 Spiritual Principles For Life Management

—Rick Ellison—

BEING RICH BY GIVING

Stop and reflect. What is the greatest gift you have ever received from another person? What is the greatest gift you have ever given another person? Those two scenes may stir up pleasant images in your mind. Those experiences in our memory may take us back in time to perhaps one of the best days of our life.

As those memories stir in your mind consider another question. If you could learn one of the most important truths ever recorded in the history of the world, would you incorporate it into your life? Here's the truth that God wants you to receive as a gift.

**THE RICHEST PEOPLE IN THE WORLD ARE THOSE WHO
HAVE DISCOVERED THE JOY OF BEING A GIVER.**

If you have trusted Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior you have discovered the joy of receiving. You have received the blessing of forgiveness of sins, an abundant life in God's family and an eternal place in heaven when you die. As one receives of God's grace He desires that we become like Him.

NOTICE: GOD IS A GIVER. HERE ARE A FEW EXAMPLES.

Genesis 1:1-5 God gave us the earth.
Genesis 1:27-28 God gave us physical life.
Genesis 12:1-3 God gave the nation Israel to be a witness to the other nations.
Exodus 14:27-31 God gave Israel the Promised Land.
Joshua 1:2
Exodus 31:18 God gave Israel His commandments.
I Kings 4:29 God gave Solomon wisdom.
Jeremiah 1:5 God gave the prophets to Israel.
Mark 14:22-25 God the Father gave His son Jesus.
Luke 23:46 Jesus gave His life on the cross.
Acts 1:8 God gave the church to be His witness to the world

John 3:16 perhaps is the greatest verse in the Bible on the giving of God.

“For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16 King James Version)

God desires that we continually become more like Him. God is a giver. He desires that we also be a giver.

In the Old Testament, God had given to Solomon a great gift. God gave Solomon a “discerning heart” (I Kings 3:9). It pleased God to give Solomon the gift of wisdom. Solomon became one of the wisest men of all time.

It is however, a tragedy that Solomon did not use this wisdom wisely as he grew older. His wives turned his heart to other gods.

READ I KINGS 11:1-10

ECCLESIASTES 11:1-2

(Solomon spoke of investing in life.)

God is a giver and He desires that we be like Him. God desires that we experience the joy of being rich towards him by giving. Solomon spoke of “casting bread upon the water.” Giving our finances as God directs will give us blessings as He decides in the future.

WHAT ARE SOME SPIRITUAL TRUTHS FROM GOD’S WORD THAT WILL HELP US DISCOVER HOW TO BE A GIVER?

1. God has given to us personally and richly.
Philippians 4:19
2. God desires that we enjoy the riches that He has given to us.
I Timothy 6:17
3. God desires that we be rich in good works toward others.
I Timothy 6:18-19
4. God commands that we give our tithes (10% of income) and offerings to Him as givers.
Matthew 23:23
(Jesus taught us not to neglect the giving of tithes and offerings.)
5. God desires for us to express our love to Him by giving of our money and service.
Psalm 116:12
6. God desires that we give of our prayers, money and service in regard to His world wide mission, and in cooperation with fellow churches. Southern Baptists have the greatest system for giving to missions. When a church designates a percentage of its offerings to be given for missions through the Cooperative Program, God’s work around the world is supported.
Matthew 28:16-20
(The Cooperative Program is the best systematic way to support missions ever in the history of Christianity.)
7. God knows that what we are most passionate about and think about the most is where we want to give.
Matthew 6:21
8. God desires that we put the obtaining of things into perspective in regard to happiness.
Ecclesiastes 5:10-11
9. God wants us to know that money does not solve all of our problems.
Psalm 4:5

10. God brings about peace of mind more than money does.
Ecclesiastes 5:12

LESSON 4

Teachers' Guide

40 Spiritual Principles For Life Management

—Rick Ellison—

Being Rich By Giving

(Begin with prayer)

CREATING A CLIMATE FOR LEARNING

Begin the Bible study by sharing about the greatest gift you have ever received.

QUESTION: What is the greatest gift you have ever received from another person?

Share about the gift you gave someone else that was most meaningful to you.

QUESTION: What is the most meaningful gift you have ever given to someone?

God has a wonderful gift for you today because you are a part of this Bible study. God is a giver and there is a truth that He wants you to receive as a gift.

THE GIFT

THE RICHEST PEOPLE IN THE WORLD ARE THOSE WHO HAVE DISCOVERED THE JOY OF BEING A GIVER.

QUESTION: What is the greatest gift that God has given to you because of His grace?
As we receive God's grace He wants us to be a giver.

BIBLE BACKGROUND

Review from the Learners' Guide.

“NOTICE: GOD IS A GIVER.” HERE ARE A FEW EXAMPLES.

Review each example of how God is a giver from the Learners' Guide. Prepare in advance scripture strips with each scripture passage written on the strip. Hand these out at the beginning of the class. As you review each way that God is a giver ask the person with the scripture strip to read the verses. Be sure to give scripture strips only to those who feel comfortable looking up scripture.

Note how John 3:16 is the greatest verse that we have on giving because God gave His only son for our salvation. God wants us to become more like Him as we grow as a giver.

In the Old Testament, God had given to Solomon a great gift. God gave Solomon an “understanding heart” (I Kings 3:9). Even though Solomon was one of the wisest men of all time

he did not always use his wisdom wisely. As Solomon grew older his wives turned his heart to other gods.

READ KINGS 11:1-10

READ ECCLESIASTES 11:1-2

(Solomon spoke of investing in life)

He spoke of “casting bread upon the waters.” Giving our finances as God directs will give blessings decided upon by Him.

NOTE THIS TRUTH: God desires that we experience the joy of being rich towards Him by giving.

APPLICATION

WHAT ARE SOME SPIRITUAL TRUTHS FROM GOD’S WORD THAT WILL HELP US DISCOVER HOW TO BE A GIVER?

1. God has given to us personally and richly.
Read Philippians 4:19
QUESTION: What are some things God has given to you?
2. God desires that we enjoy the riches He has given to us.
Read I Timothy 6:17
QUESTION: How do we enjoy the riches God has given to us?
3. God desires that we be rich in good works toward others.
Read I Timothy 6:18-19
QUESTION: What are some good works we can do for others?
4. God commands that we give our tithes (10% of income) and offerings to Him as givers.
Read Matthew 23:23
(Jesus taught us not to neglect the giving of tithes and offerings.)
5. God desires for us to express our love to Him by giving of our money and service.
Read Psalm 116:12
QUESTION: Can we ever repay God for all the good things He has done for us?
6. God desires that we give of our prayers, money and service in regard to his world wide mission, and in cooperation with fellow churches. Southern Baptists have the greatest system for giving to missions. When a church designates a percentage of its offerings to be given for missions through the Cooperative Program, God’s work around the world is supported.
Read Matthew 28:16-20

(The Cooperative Program is the best systematic way to support missions ever in the history of Christianity.)
QUESTION: Why is it important for our spiritual health and our church’s health to participate in and support missions?

7. God knows that what we are most passionate about and think about the most is where we want to give.

Read Matthew 6:21

QUESTION: Is what we spend our money on an indication of where our heart is and what we value in life?

8. God desires that we put the obtaining of things into perspective in regard to happiness.

Read Ecclesiastes 5:10-11

QUESTION: Do we ever have the idea that buying things can bring us long term happiness?

9. God wants us to know that money does not solve all of our problems.

Read Psalm 4:5

QUESTION: What problems will money solve and not solve?

10. God brings about peace of mind more than money does.

Read Ecclesiastes 5:12

QUESTION: What kind of peace of mind will money bring? What kind of peace of mind will God give?