



## rGroup Guide

### THANKFUL

Pastor Miles McPherson | November 24, 2019

#### *Recite the Do Something Disciple Prayer*

“As a Do Something Disciple, I am in a disciplined pursuit for the heart of The Father, a heart that is being perfected in love for God and people.

#### **Father give me a heart that:**

- Desperately seeks face-to-face intimacy with You.
- Faithfully avoids that which displeases You.
- Humbly embraces a Kingdom Mindset.
- Values making disciples that make disciples.

#### **Jesus, create in me a heart that:**

- Values being guided by the Word of God.
- Gratefully grows in generosity.
- Nurtures a burden for lost people.
- Demonstrates a commitment to a Spirit-filled expression of my gifts.

#### **Holy Spirit develop a heart in me that:**

- Gracefully gives and receives forgiveness.
- Passionately worships God.
- Is dependent on the power of prayer.
- Serves with Humility.

Father, with Christlikeness as my goal and the Holy Spirit as my Guide,  
knit my heart with Yours. Fill my heart with Your passions,  
motivations, and desires. In Jesus' Name, Amen.”

#### **Sermon Application Questions from Sunday's Message:**

This week, Pastor Miles shared about the importance of becoming a committed Christian through giving. He shared about how God will show us His faithfulness in how we respond with our giving.

**Take time to read through the following materials in your rGroup and discuss the questions provided.**

Faithfully give from what God has given you. After receiving God's blessing, Abraham set an example for all believers by giving a tenth of what he received back to God: "He gave him a tenth of all." (Gen. 14:20(b)). The book of Hebrews clarifies that Abraham gave a tenth of his best spoils from the war for Melchizedek's priesthood: "Now observe how great this man was to whom Abraham, the patriarch, gave a tenth of the choicest spoils." (Heb. 7:4). Following Abraham's example, his grandson Jacob gave a tenth to God as a tithe (Gen. 28:22). The duty to tithe part of a person's produce or earnings later became part of the Mosaic law in the Torah (Dt. 14:22; 12:16; Lev. 27:30; Nu. 18:21). Like Abraham, the Jews were to tithe only their best things to God: "You shall bring the choice first fruits of your soil into the house of the LORD your God." (Ex. 23:19(a); 34:26). "Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, 'When you enter the land which I am going to give to you and reap its harvest, then you shall bring in the sheaf of the first fruits of your harvest to the priest.'" (Lev. 23:10; Nu. 18:13; Dt. 26:2, 10). "Honor the LORD from your wealth and from the first of all your produce;" (Prov. 3:9). When giving is done without any expectation for reward, He will give back more than you gave Him (Mal. 3:10). As a faithful steward of God's monies, do you give Him the best of your time, talent and treasure?

Give gratefully from the things God has given you. The Jews knew that God gave them everything they had when He freed them from captivity (Ex. 12:35-36). Every good and perfect thing in your life comes from above, even if someone in the world hands it to you (Ja. 1:17). God commands each believer to give back from the things that God has given. He in turn promises to bless you as a steward with more gifts (Mal. 3:8-10). Yet, He only wants you to give out of gratitude, not obligation (Ex. 36:2-7; 2 Cor. 9:6 8-14). Are you giving to God with the right motives?

God will also supply all that you need when you labor out of love for His Church. Solomon initially had a heart to serve God, and God also blessed him with the materials that he needed (1 Kgs. 5:10). When you serve God, He promises to provide for all that you need: "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." (Matt. 6:33). "And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, *you may have an abundance for every good deed;*" (2 Cor. 9:8). "And *my God will supply all your needs* according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus." (Phil. 4:19). "A Psalm of David. The LORD is my shepherd, *I shall not want.*" (Ps. 23:1). "O fear the LORD, you His saints; *for to those who fear Him there is no want.*" (Ps. 34:9). If you are missing anything, are you seeking to use your talents for yourself or for Him?

When times are tough, test God by giving Him more than you can afford. Giving is the one area where God encourages you to test Him. If you give to Him in faith, He promises to bless you with even more: "But you say, 'How have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings. <sup>9</sup> You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation of you! <sup>10</sup> Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this," says the

Lord of hosts, ‘if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows.’” (Mal. 3:8-10). Are you giving God the opportunity to bless you abundantly?

### **Next Steps:**

- **Take up the challenge and give – Text give to 52525 or visit <https://www.sdrock.com/give/>**
- **Toys for Joy – Give, Volunteer, - December 14<sup>th</sup> - <https://www.toys-for-joy.org>**

**Monthly Memory Verse: Romans 1:16** *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.”*

### **This Week’s Bible Reading:**

1 and 2 Corinthians - <https://thebibleproject.com/explore/1-corinthians/>,  
<https://thebibleproject.com/explore/2-corinthians/>

### **Additional Supplemental Material for Discussion:**

Give with a joyful heart. When it came time to build the Tabernacle, Moses did not need to berate the Jews to give. He simply told the Jews what was needed. The people then left and mediated on his words. Then, out of gratitude for being spared for their many rebellions against God, all those with a stirred heart gave for the building of the Tabernacle: <sup>20</sup> *Then all the congregation of the sons of Israel departed from Moses’ presence.* <sup>21</sup> *Everyone whose heart stirred him and everyone whose spirit moved him came and brought the Lord’s contribution for the work of the tent of meeting and for all its service and for the holy garments.* <sup>22</sup> *Then all whose hearts moved them, both men and women, came and brought brooches and earrings and signet rings and bracelets, all articles of gold; so did every man who presented an offering of gold to the Lord.* <sup>23</sup> *Every man, who had in his possession blue and purple and scarlet material and fine linen and goats’ hair and rams’ skins dyed red and porpoise skins, brought them.* <sup>24</sup> *Everyone who could make a contribution of silver and bronze brought the Lord’s contribution; and every man who had in his possession acacia wood for any work of the service brought it.* <sup>25</sup> *All the skilled women spun with their hands, and brought what they had spun, in blue and purple and scarlet material and in fine linen.* <sup>26</sup> *All the women whose heart stirred with a skill spun the goats’ hair.* <sup>27</sup> *The rulers brought the onyx stones and the stones for setting for the ephod and for the breastpiece;* <sup>28</sup> *and the spice and the oil for the light and for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense.* <sup>29</sup> *The Israelites, all the men and women, whose heart moved them to bring material for all the work, which the Lord had commanded through Moses to be done, brought a freewill offering to the Lord.”* (Ex. 35:20-29). It is hard to imagine people today giving like the Jews did for the building of the Tabernacle. A lack of faith will typically hold people back from giving as much as they could. Yet, God wants you to have the same faith in giving.

Give gratefully from the things God has given you. God has given you talents for you to use as a co-builder of His Church (Matt. 25:14-30). If you are faithful with the small things that He gives you, He will entrust you with greater things: *“As each one has received a special gift,*

employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.” (1 Pet. 4:10). “Since *we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us*, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.” (Ro. 12:6-8). “And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;” (Eph. 4:11-12). “Now concerning *spiritual gifts*, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware. . . .<sup>4</sup> Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. <sup>5</sup> And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. <sup>6</sup> There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. <sup>7</sup> But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.” (1 Cor. 12:1-7). Every good and perfect thing in your life comes from above, even if someone in the world hands it to you: “Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.” (Jam. 1:17). God commands each believer to give back from the things that He has given. He in turn promises to bless you as a steward with more gifts (Mal. 3:8-10). Yet, He only wants you to give out of gratitude, not obligation (Ex. 36:2-7; 2 Cor. 9:6, 8-14). Satan will also seek to cause you to sin by keeping God’s tithes. Are you giving to God from what He has given you? Or, has your coveting robbed from resources that could be going to God?

God will give back in proportion to your giving to Him. To the extent you give to God in faith, He will give back proportionally to you: “Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. <sup>7</sup> Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Cor. 9:6-7). “And I say to you, make friends for yourselves by means of the wealth of unrighteousness, so that when it fails, they will receive you into the eternal dwellings. <sup>10</sup> “He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much. <sup>11</sup> Therefore if you have not been faithful in the use of unrighteous wealth, who will entrust the true riches to you?” (Lk. 16:9-11). Are you giving to God faithfully?

Make your life a living sacrifice for God. God also wants you to tithe your life as a “living sacrifice” to Him: “Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.” (Ro. 12:1). Are you giving God the best of your life to Him?