

Five Stones Church

Sermon Study

Keep Scripture Relevant with Study Guides



Be Intentional

Before you start your study time, make sure you create an environment for Holy Spirit revelation.

Study Group

You can discuss difficult questions or topics with your small group or study partners.



Note-Taking

Take notes in an organized style to help you understand the subject more clearly. Take notes on Sunday

Become Equipped

Challenge yourself to memorize Scripture and key points from Sunday's sermon



Opening Prayer:

Invite Holy Spirit to open your heart and mind for pressing deeper into the Word and it's revelations for your life.

Anchor Scripture:

Matthew 25:34-36 (NLT)

34 “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world.

Sermon Study Guide
Getting Serious About Giving Cheerfully

Introduction

Theme: Obedience and Generosity

In this study guide, we will dive into the importance of giving in the life of a believer, understanding the principles God has established, and reflecting on our own hearts.

Reflection Questions:

- What does giving reveal about the condition of your heart?

- How do you view the connection between giving and obedience?

Action Item:

Write down an honest reflection of your current attitude towards giving. How do you think God views your heart in relation to generosity?

Level One - The Principle of First

Scripture:

Genesis 1:1-2 (NKJV)

'In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.'

Key Concept:

God set the precedent by giving first. Our FirstFruit offering is an act of obedience and reverence.

Reflection Question:

- What does it mean for you to give God your "FirstFruit"?

Action Item:

Consider one area of your life where you can offer God the "first" of what you have.

Level Two – Obedience to The Tithe

Scripture:

Matthew 6:21 (NKJV)

'For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.'

Key Concept:

Tithing is a principle set by God to help us keep our relationship with Him first. It is a concrete way to demonstrate that God is more important than worldly things.

Reflection Questions:

- Do you see tithing as an obligation or an act of worship? Why?
- Where is your heart when it comes to giving to God's work?

Action Item:

Calculate 10% of your income and make a plan to tithe consistently.

Commit to offering this portion to God as an act of obedience and love.

Level Three – Generous Giving

Scripture:

2 Corinthians 9:6–8 (NKJV)

'But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.'

Key Concept:

While tithing is obedience, giving beyond the tithe reflects the heart of God's generosity. It shows a heart overflowing with love and compassion for others.

Reflection Questions:

- Are you a "cheerful giver"? Why or why not?
- What does generous giving look like in your life?

Action Item:

Pray and ask God to reveal opportunities for generosity in your daily life. Commit to one act of generous giving this week, whether financially or through service.

Biblical Standards for Generosity

Standard One: The Widow's Two Mites

Scripture:

Mark 12:41-44 (NKJV)

'Now Jesus sat opposite the treasury and saw how the people put money into the treasury... for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood.'

Reflection Questions:

- How does this story challenge your understanding of generosity?
- What can you learn from the widow's example about sacrificial giving?

Action Item:

Consider one area of your finances where you can sacrifice something to give to God's kingdom. Take a step in faith to give out of a heart of trust and obedience.

Standard Two: The Anointing at Bethany

Scripture:

Mark 14:3-5 (NKJV)

... a woman came having an alabaster flask of very costly oil of spikenard.

Then she broke the flask and poured it on His head.'

Key Concept:

The woman gave a costly offering, not out of obligation but out of love and worship for Jesus.

Reflection Questions:

- Are you willing to give something valuable to God, not because you have to but because you love Him?
- What “alabaster jar” do you have in your life that you can offer to God?

Action Item:

Reflect on something valuable in your life that you can offer to God. It may be a resource, a talent, or time. Offer it to Him in love.

The Heart of Giving

Scripture:

Luke 6:38 (NKJV)

'Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.'

Key Concept:

Generosity isn't just about money—it's about the heart.

Reflection Questions:

- How do you measure generosity in your life?
- Are you sowing seeds of love, kindness, and provision?

Action Item:

This week, look for opportunities to sow seeds of generosity in all areas—time, resources, and talents. Record the blessings that come from your obedience to God's call to give.

Closing Prayer:

Heavenly Father, we thank You for the truth of Your Word and the principles You have laid out for us in giving. We recognize that everything we have comes from You, and we desire to reflect Your heart in all that we do.

Next Steps:

Commit to Consistent Tithing:

Calculate 10% of your income and commit to tithing regularly. This is an act of obedience and trust that honors God as your provider.

Practice Generosity: Look for an opportunity to give beyond the tithe this week. Try giving directly to someone the Holy Spirit points out to you.

