



LEARN • VOLUME 5 • SESSION 3

Group Session



Small Group Study

Volume Overview

How do I live for God?

“Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.”
(Matthew 6:33)

As we explore how to live for God, our goal is to find out what that looks like in our everyday life. But this journey is full of questions. How do we put God first? How do we get through all the confusion and uncertainty in this world? What does God expect when it comes to giving? How can we show others we care? One way we discover the answers is through the Bible speaking to us. But we don't have to do that alone. We also learn from other believers as we live connected to them like God intended. In these sessions, we'll consider what the Bible has to say about devoting our life to God.

You Will Need

- **Group Activity Page**, one for every two students
- Variety of candy bars or individually wrapped candy, but not enough for everyone

Getting Ready

- Print copies of the **Group Activity Page**, one per every two students. Cut apart the play money, and give each student the same amount.
- First time leading Learn for Youth? Look here for the Facilitator Guide.

To access the Bible Engagement Project library from a computer, visit App.BibleEngagementProject.com.

Engage

Welcome

Take this time to welcome everyone, introduce new students, learn names, and thank them for coming.

QUESTION

What has been the best part of your week so far?

Opening Prayer

Prayer thoughts: Thank God for everyone who came. Ask Him to use this time together to engage the group directly and through the Bible. Thank God for His Word and pray that He would help everyone enjoy the journey to learn and fall in love with His Word.

Introduction

Today we'll be talking about generosity. Christians should be the most radically generous people anywhere! Let's find out about *what* we are to be generous with, *how* we should be generous, and *why* we can be generous.

Group Activity

Bidding Buyout

You Will Need

- **Group Activity Page**, one for every two students
- *Variety of candy bars or individually wrapped candy, but not enough for everyone*

Getting Ready

- *Print copies of the **Group Activity Page**, one for every two students. Cut apart the play money, and give each student the same amount.*

Since we'll talk about money today, I want to start by giving you some.

- *Hand out an equal amount of the play money to each student.*

We're going to have an auction for candy using this play money. You can bid for the items on your own, or you can give your money to another student to help them bid higher. If you choose to do that and they win the bid, they can't share the candy with you.

- *Auction off smaller pieces of candy followed by the bigger, more desirable pieces.*
- *Notice which students are spenders and which are savers. Notice who gives their money to help others out.*

QUESTION

Who saved their money? Why were you hesitant to place a bid?

QUESTION

Some of you spent all your money to purchase something. Why were you aggressive in your bidding?

QUESTION

If you donated your money, why did you choose to help another person?

QUESTION

If someone gave you their money, how did it feel to have them help you?

QUESTION

Are you more of a spender or a saver?

The way we handle our money reveals so much about us. With money, some people are spenders, and some are savers. Some are givers, and some are takers. We'll find out today that it's not how much we have, but how we give that's most important to God. Let's watch the video.

Watch



Consider What the Bible Says

Ensure each student has access to a Bible, preferably the same version.

We're going to look at a story in which Jesus noticed radical generosity from an unexpected source.

QUESTION

Where have you learned most of your lessons about how to handle, save, or give money? Who or what influenced you the most?

QUESTION

What are some ways you've been shown generosity by other people?

As we look at this story and some other Bible passages, be aware that the Holy Spirit wants to help us understand the truth of God's Word.

Read Mark 12:41–44.

In this story, Jesus witnessed something so amazing that He made sure His disciples didn't miss it. After watching some wealthy people make a show of giving their larger offerings, a widow dropped two small coins into the collection box as an offering.

QUESTION

What message do you think Jesus wanted His disciples to understand from this account?

QUESTION

What made the widow's two small coins a generous gift?

While the widow gave far less than the others, her giving was much more generous and more sacrificial. Her giving cost her more because she gave everything! This was a remarkable display of trust in God. As Christians, we can learn a lot from her. So let's find out about *what* we can be generous with, *how* we should be generous, and *why* we can be generous.

QUESTION

What does this story tell us about how Jesus measures our generosity in life?

QUESTION

What do you think it means to give everything to God?

Did You Know?

The Greek lepton, the copper coin that has also been called the widow's mite, was the smallest form of currency in first-century Israel. Its estimated value is about one-third of a penny. The lepton continued to be a part of official Greek currency, serving continuously as the smallest denomination through the modern age until the euro cent replaced it in 2001. However, with the modern currency change, the common term for a single euro cent in Greece remains the lepton.

What We Give

In this story, the giving focuses on money—our treasure. But generosity isn't just about money. One way to remember the ways we can be generous is to think of the words *time*, *talent*, and *treasure*. Those categories represent many important gifts we can offer to bless others.

QUESTION

Time, talent, and treasure—which of those areas is the easiest for you to give?

QUESTION

How can we give God our time?

QUESTION

What's an example of giving God our talent?

QUESTION

What's a treasure, besides money, that we can give to God?

How We Give

In our Bible story, notice that this widow gave generously and sacrificially. Her giving cost her everything, while the wealthy givers probably felt very little impact from their gifts.

QUESTION

Do you agree that someone can give a lot of money but still not be generous? Why or why not?

What we give matters, but how we give matters more. Look at what the apostle Paul wrote to early believers who had been giving to help another church that was struggling.

Read 1 Timothy 6:17–19.

In this passage, the apostle Paul was concerned not just with *what* we give or *how* we give, but he offered a few reasons as to *why* we should give. Our heart attitude matters to God. The Bible is clear. As followers of Jesus, we should be eager and glad to give generously in a way that blesses others and reflects the way God has been generous to us.

QUESTION

What are a few reasons why we should give according to Paul?

God wants us to trust Him, not in money. He gives us what we need. We're to use our money for good, be generous to those in need, and share with others. When we give generously, we store up treasure for our future.

QUESTION

Do the apostle Paul's words challenge you in your giving? How so?

QUESTION

What reason that Paul mentioned encourages you the most to give?

Why We Give

What we give matters, how we give matters more, but why we give matters most. We don't know very much about the widow. What we do know is her action in that moment revealed her amazing trust in God. Clearly, her heart had been touched in a profound way by the generosity of God. She seemed to truly trust God and store up treasures for her future.

QUESTION

Why do you think God wants us to share with those who have needs?

QUESTION

Paul wrote that our generosity reveals the realness of our love. How do you imagine that works?

Reflect

I Give Generously

It's easy to treat money and material possessions like a god. We do that when we make money the most important thing in our life. We can be tempted to find our status and significance in the brand of clothes we wear or the newest electronic device we have. Savers might find security in having a growing savings account. While there is wisdom in saving, it can be an obstacle to generous living too. Being greedy like this is an enemy of generosity. Jesus warned us to watch out for greed (Luke 12:15). Instead, we're called to make generosity a lifestyle.

Listen to God

Let's take time to consider how our life demonstrates a real trust in the Bible. These questions are meant to serve as a conversation between you and God. Sharing your responses with the group is completely voluntary.

- *Pause for a few moments of silent reflection before asking students if they want to share.*

QUESTION

What's the biggest struggle for you when it comes to being generous? Why?

QUESTION

Think through how you spend your money every week. What does it reveal about your priorities?

QUESTION

What changes might you need to make when it comes to how you spend and where you give your money?

Activate

James, in his book of the Bible, wrote that we should not just be hearers of the word, but to be doers (James 1:22). As you reflect on this session, ask the Holy Spirit to help you see blind spots in your own life and be open to practical next steps in your life.

QUESTION

What is one practical way you can be generous with your treasure, time, or talents to bless others this week?

Salvation Opportunity

Include this if you think there may be some in the group who do not have a personal relationship with Jesus.

God didn't create us and then leave us to make it on our own. God generously and sacrificially gave us His Son, Jesus, to take on our sin. He sent Jesus to save humanity because He loves each of us. He knows everything about us, including the choices we've made in life. Yet He still wants to have a relationship with us and lead us toward the amazing future He created for us.

Is there anyone here that we can pray for who doesn't have a relationship with Jesus or wants to renew their relationship with Him?

Take a moment to acknowledge those who respond and thank them for their desire to make things right between themselves and God. Pray with them as we close in prayer or after the group time is over. Following group time, talk more about where they are in their walk with God and how you might be able to help.

Conclusion

The Bible talks a great deal about money, as we can see from our discussion and from the daily devotions you'll go through this week. One of the biggest reasons for this is that God knows that we cannot serve two masters (Matthew 6:24). We cannot serve both God *and* money. He wants us to be free from the love of money (Hebrews 13:5) and learn to put our trust in God alone for all our needs. This was one of the main points in today's story of the widow and her giving. She trusted God completely.

Prayer

Gracious and giving God, thank You for meeting all our needs and showing us that we can trust in You. Help us to grow in this area and to become people who share with others and give generously. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Don't forget the personal devotions provided for you on the app. These allow you to have time with Jesus learning more about what we've discussed. I look forward to seeing each of you next time as we continue our journey through God's Word.