

# NS LIFE GROUPS

NorthStar Church

This is Us - Give

Numbers 18:20-21, 25-26; Deuteronomy 14:22-26; 2 Corinthians 9:6-15; 1 Chronicles 29:1-3, 16-17

February 3, 2019

**Main Idea:** The Joy of Giving!

**Icebreaker:** Have you ever known a kind and gracious giver who got pure joy just from the act of giving, or have you ever given a gift that brought you joy just by being able to give it? Can you tell a short story of one such instance?

**Study:**

Read the following points, Scripture, and your sermon notes, and discuss within your group.

**The joy of giving in 3 specific areas:**

- 1. The joy of tithing (Numbers 18:20-21, 25-26; Deuteronomy 14:22-26.)** “Tithing is not so much giving, but *returning* to God what is rightfully His.” (*Tithing is giving 10 percent of your income to the Lord.*)
  - How does this shift in perspective (about it being *returning* to the Lord what is rightfully his) change your feelings about tithing? Does it help you see tithing as a joy rather than something you dread?
  - If everything we have comes from God to begin with, how could it actually bring joy to give back to Him?
- 2. The joy of an offering (2 Corinthians 9:6-15).** The ability to be generous is itself a gift from God, and it brings him glory when we give generously from a cheerful heart.
  - Why does God love a *cheerful* giver? What does it mean to give cheerfully?
  - If two people give the same generous amount, but one gives cheerfully while the other gives reluctantly and begrudgingly, why is the cheerful giver’s gift more honoring to the Lord? (*Our heart motives matter.*)
- 3. The joy of over and above (1 Chronicles 29:1-3 & 16-17).** King David gave “over and above” to the work of the Lord, and the people of Israel generously followed his example.
  - Have you ever witnessed someone give far over and above to the Lord in a way that stretched your faith? What happened, and how did their example challenge you to be more generous?
  - How does our view of who God is and what he is doing in the world, impact us with a joy and a willingness to give over and above for the sake of his kingdom and for those who don't know Christ?

**Application:**

**How do we need to live in obedience to this lesson?** (*Group members don't necessarily have to answer the following questions out loud. Ask the questions and give your group members a few moments of quiet to think. Then, give them a moment to share their thoughts if they feel led to.*)

1. If you don't currently give at the level of a tithe, why not? What needs to change in your life for you to tithe?

2. When opportunities arise outside of your regular tithe to give an extra offering to a specific need or even just to the church, do you cheerfully give? Why or why not? What might need to change in your life?
3. If you were in a position to do so, what gift over and above, for the glory of God and for the building of His kingdom, has God laid on your heart that would be a joy to give?
4. What next step do you need to take in your giving?

**Pray:**

Pray for each person in your group and their various requests. Pray that God would help us to see giving as a great joy that honors him. Pray that God would help us to trust his provision in our lives. Pray that God would increase our capacity to give generously to his kingdom.