



TRU\$T Week 2 – Give Proportionately Spiritual Formation & Discussion Guide

We hope you'll use this guide to take the teaching from Sunday's service and reflect on it with a few friends or a group. If you have questions or want to talk more about how to take your next spiritual step, contact us at info@wschurch.org.

Scripture:

Jesus sat down near the collection box in the Temple and watched as the crowds dropped in their money. Many rich people put in large amounts. Then a poor widow came and dropped in two small coins. Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has given more than all the others who are making contributions. For they gave a tiny part of their surplus, but she, poor as she is, has given everything she had to live on."

Mark 12:41-44

Reflection Questions:

- Do you have a decision that you consider your best financial decision in life? What is it and why has it made an impact?
- What stood out to you from Sunday's service? How did you sense God encouraging and challenging you through the songs, the message, and being with others as part of the church? (The message's main points and scripture are listed below if it helps you remember key moments from the teaching.)
- Read the story in Mark 12:41-44 of Jesus and his disciples watching people give in the temple. Consider reading it in several Bible translations (NIV, NLT, The Message, etc.). What do you notice? What surprises you about Jesus?
- In the message, Eddie said, "God loves to be trusted – and there is no more nitty-gritty way to trust him than with your money, whether you have a little or a lot." Have you thought about how God reacts to your giving? What do you think he sees when he sees your giving?
- How do you react to God's desire to be trusted?
- Eddie shared 5 things that matter to God when it comes to our financial gifts:
 - Sequence matters (Proverbs 3:9 – give to God first)
 - Percentage matters
 - Attitude matters (2 Corinthians 9:7)
 - Recipient matters (God intends my tithe for my church)

- Trust matters (Psalm 37:25)

Which of these have you embraced? Which do you struggle with? Take a moment to write down and reflect on the answers to both of those questions. Then, share with others as you're willing.

- Is there anything else from this teaching that you want to explore more?
- Take a moment to talk to God honestly about your response to this teaching. (Consider writing out a prayer or having silent time in a group where people can pray on their own first.) Then, take a moment to express your trust in God as you close your time of prayer.

Want some practical help with your financial health?

Go to www.wschurch.org/money to see a list of a wide variety of resources and tools.

Visit www.wschurch.org/resources to see additional tools and resources for spiritual growth.

Message Main Points and Scripture:

- Matthew 6:33 - "Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need."
- **the best financial decision I have ever made...**
- Mark 12:41 says, Jesus sat down near the collection box in the Temple and watched as the crowds dropped in their money. Many rich people put in large amounts. Then a poor widow came and dropped in two small coins."
- Mark 12:42 - Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has given more than all the others who are making contributions. For they gave a tiny part of their surplus, but she, poor as she is, has given everything she had to live on."
- **Jesus measures our generosity by percentage, not amount.**
- **God repeatedly identifies 10% giving as a starting point.**
- **The most important financial decision I've ever made is to tithe.**
- Malachi 3:10 - "Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do," says the Lord of Heaven's Armies, "I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in! Try it – put me to the test!"
- **sequence matters**
- Proverbs 3:9 (NIV) - Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.
- **percentage matters**
- **attitude matters**
- 2 Corinthians 9:7 – You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully."
- **the recipient matters**
- **trust matters**
- Psalm 37:25 - Once I was young, and now I am old. Yet I have never seen the godly abandoned or their children begging for bread.
- To access the Tithe Challenge, text TRUST to 217217.