

## BELIEVE SERIES Lesson Eighteen

### GIVING MY RESOURCES

#### VIDEO TEACHING NOTES

**Key Question:** How do I best use my \_\_\_\_\_ to serve God and others?

**Key Idea:** I give my resources to fulfill God's purposes.

**Key Verse:** "But since you excel in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you – see that you also excel in this grace of \_\_\_\_\_." (2 Corinthians 8:7)

**(Key Application)** Your willingness comes from a heart \_\_\_\_\_ by God's purposes.

**(Key Application)** Resources go \_\_\_\_\_ money.

**(Key Application)** Giving to others \_\_\_\_\_ your intimacy with Christ.

#### GROUP DISCUSSION

*As a group, discuss your thoughts and feelings about the following declarations. Which statements are easy to declare with certainty? Which are more challenging and why?*

- I give away 10 percent or more of my income to God's work.
- I regularly give money to serve and help others.
- My first priority in spending is to support God's work.
- My spending habits do not keep me from giving what I feel I should give to God.

*Choose 2-3 questions that will lead to best discussion about the Key Idea*

1. Fire can be incredibly beneficial and also terribly dangerous, if not used properly. How are material resources similar?
2. In what ways can money give us a false sense of security, satisfaction, and safety?
3. Why do you think God is more concerned about the intentions of the giver than the size of the gift?
4. What present circumstances in your life provide opportunities to give away your resources for God's purposes?

*Read Proverbs 11:24-25, 28 and Ecclesiastes 5:10-20 and choose 1-2 questions to discuss.*

1. What truths can be found in the Scripture you just read together?
2. Solomon was one of the wealthiest men to ever walk the earth. In what ways, if any, are you surprised by his comments on wealth and money? Which of his comments do you think are the most insightful?
3. If you could sum up Solomon's advice in one or two sentences, what would you say?

#### OTHER PASSAGES

Gen. 27:41-28:22

Exodus 35:4-29; 36:3-7

1 Chronicles 29:1-18

Prov. 3:9-10; 11:24-25, 28

Ecl. 5:10-20

Matt. 6:1-4, 19-24

Luke 6:32-36; 12:13-21

Mark 12:41-44

Acts 4:32-37

2 Cor. 8:1-9:15

Philippians 4:10-19

1 Timothy 6:17-19

#### CLOSING PRAYER

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### PERSONAL QUESTIONS FOR NEXT WEEK

Read Believe, Chapter 20: Sharing My Faith and/or read the following passages

Gen. 12:1-4	2 Cor. 5:14-21	2 Kings 5:1-15	Matt. 5:13-16
1 Cor. 9:19-23	Psalms 40:1-10	Acts 1:1-8; 2:42-47; 8:1-8, 26-40; 20:17-24	
Eph. 6:19-20	Colossians 4:2-6	Jonah 3:1-4:11; 4:3-42	Rom. 10:1-15

Then, answer the following questions:

1. What are some ways in which we can be God's "ambassadors" to the world?
2. What does Paul mean when he writes, "I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some"? What do you think this does *not* mean?
3. As you read about Philip's divine encounter with the Ethiopian in Acts 8, identify his effective strategies for sharing his faith that you can emulate.
4. What does it mean to "be wise in the way you act toward outsiders"? What does it mean to have our conversation be "full of grace" and "seasoned with salt"?
5. In regard to sharing our faith, what did Jesus mean that some will "sow" the seed and others will "reap" the harvest? Why should we share our faith, even if we think our message could be rejected?

**Key Verse:** "Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should." (Ephesians 6:19-20)

**Key Idea:** I share my faith with others to fulfill God's purposes.

### Personal Application

1. How would this practice express itself in your life?
2. What visible attributes can be found in someone who regularly shares his or her faith?
3. What is impeding your ability to openly share your faith in Christ? How can you overcome this obstacle?
4. What action step can you take this week to put yourself in a position to share what God has done in your life?