



## BECOMING AN EXCITED AND EXTRAVAGANT GIVER

### Jimmy Evans

**Focus** Giving connects us to the heart of God. He lovingly and graciously supplies all our needs, so why should we be stingy? We are called to give cheerfully and abundantly.

**Fun** Anytime we give to the kingdom, we can anticipate a bountiful harvest. As a group, buy a pack of flower or vegetable seeds and plant them together. Over the next few weeks and months, watch the plants grow!

**Review** Key Scriptures: 2 Corinthians 9:6–8

#### **The Three Keys to Becoming an Excited, Extravagant Giver:**

**1. By understanding the living nature of money.**

*2 Corinthians 9:10–11; Proverbs 3:9–10; Luke 6:38; Malachi 3:10–12*

When we are not givers, we see money as static or inactive. If we spend it, it's gone. If we save it, it's dormant. If we give it to God, it is dynamic and becomes an investment in the kingdom. When we sow sparingly, we reap sparingly. When we give abundantly, God blesses us abundantly.

**2. By understanding the loving nature of God.**

*Hebrews 13:5–6; 1 John 2:15–16; Romans 8:15–17*

God is a loving Father to all of us beyond anything we could possibly understand. Giving and trusting Him in our finances is the number one thing that allows God to express His fatherly love to us. When you give to God, He is able to make all grace abound toward you. He knows us, and He knows what we need.

### 3. **By understanding the lying nature of mammon.**

*Matthew 6:19–21*

Jesus says that you cannot serve both God and mammon, the money god. Mammon is a liar. It can't fill your heart, it can't do miracles for your family, and it can't love you—only God can. Accumulating wealth here on earth will not solve all your problems. Your treasures are in heaven.

**\*Group Dynamics Idea\*** Discuss how you can be more cheerful givers. Pick a family, charity, or ministry to donate to as a group.

#### **Discuss**

1. What does it mean to “honor the Lord with the firstfruits of all your crops?” (Proverbs 3:9–10)
2. God invites us to test him in our giving. What outcome can we anticipate? (Malachi 3:10–12)
3. Have you ever been discontent while waiting on God to provide? What is the key to being content with what we have? (Hebrews 13:5–6)
4. What three things come “not from the Father but from the world”? (1 John 2:15–16)
5. What happens to the treasures we store on earth? What about the ones we store in heaven? (Matthew 6:19–21)

**Take Home** As we conclude, remember the following:

- Giving disconnects us from the world and connects our hearts to God!
- Giving reveals where our trust is—in God or in money.
- Giving breaks a spirit of mammon off of us and the deception that is with it.
- The only people who can advance God's work are God's people.

#### **Prayer**

Most Holy God, thank You for loving us the way You do. You offered Your most prized possession as the wages for our sin, and for that we can never repay You. Touch our hearts so we give just as graciously and abundantly as You do. Let our tithes and offerings honor You and further the kingdom according to Your purpose. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**\*New Leader Tip\*** Share how God has changed your life through giving as well as any struggles you may have encountered during the process. Your transparency may help others who are also on the journey to becoming an excited and extravagant giver.