



Group Leader Guide Instructions

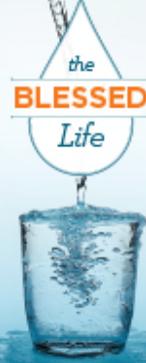
GROUP LEADER PLAN

Answer these questions to create a plan and strategy for your small group.

- What aspects of community would you like to see in your own group?
- How does surrendering to the Holy Spirit enable this to happen?
- Why do you think some people don't fully surrender to the leading of the Holy Spirit?

Remember, a successful group leader is led by the Holy Spirit.

When we surrender to the Holy Spirit's leadership, we can experience the type of Christian community that happened in the book of Acts. Fruitfulness is the outflow of being full of the Holy Spirit, and Jesus is our greatest example. He was filled with the Holy Spirit, and His life was the example of fruitfulness.



Breaking the Spirit of Mammon Robert Morris

OVERVIEW

Mammon is an Aramaic word, which means riches, and mammon represents the spirit of this world. Money either has God's spirit on it or a mammon spirit. Jesus said, "You can't serve God and mammon." If we think that money could solve our problems instead of God, then the spirit of mammon has influenced us. Tithing and giving breaks the stronghold and spirit of mammon.

QUICK RECAP

Key Scripture: Luke 16:9–13; 1 Timothy 6:10

- ***What is mammon?***
Mammon has its roots in Babylonian history and essentially means "sown in confusion." Mammon is the spirit of the world and the spirit that rests on money not submitted to God. God blesses money that has been submitted and doesn't try to replace God. Mammon tries to take God's place by promising us everything that only God can give. Mammon wants to rule. We must submit ourselves and our money to God only.
- ***Is money evil?***
In 1 Timothy 6:10, Paul writes that the love of money is the root of all evil. Money, in itself, is not evil; the **love** of money is the root of evil. Money can be used for unrighteous temporal purposes or for righteous eternal purposes. The choice is ours. This means we are to use money for what is eternal, such as winning souls for God's kingdom.
- ***What should I do with money?***
Be a good steward with whatever you have. Luke 16:10 and 12 says, "He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least, is unjust also in much ... and if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, who will give you what is your own?" We all have something with which we are supposed to be faithful. Tithing is stewarding what belongs to another. Our money belongs to God, not us.

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Have you ever been in a situation where you thought, “If I only had more money this problem would be okay”? What did it feel like to be in this situation, and what was the end result? If you are comfortable, share about a time this happened and how you responded or handled it.
2. If you look at the world today it appears to be so ruled by greed and the love of money. Do you think this has had a positive or negative impact on our society and why?
3. Imagine a world where the love of money did not exist. What would this place look like and feel like, and how would people behave? In your own words describe this place. Does it reflect any biblical qualities? Explain.
4. This week Pastor Robert talked about the spirit of mammon. In your own words, how would you define the spirit of mammon? Is it important to resist the spirit of mammon? Why or why not?
5. What are some of the characteristics of the “love of money”?
6. The Bible talks about how the love of money is the root of all evil. Why do you think that is? What are some of the things that can help us resist the spirit of mammon and submit our money to righteous, eternal purposes? Give examples.
7. Read Luke 6:10. What are some of the “small things” that we can be faithful stewards of? Name one or two important attributes of someone who is a good steward. How can we better reflect these qualities in our lives? Share.

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Divide everyone into groups of three or four people. Have each group brainstorm ways to faithfully steward their treasure, time, and talent. This week we are going to look at talent differently. Read 2 Corinthians 12:9. How can we trust God to use us in our weak areas?

- **Treasure**
Treasure relates to our money and also our resources. Begin brainstorming some practical ways you could help win souls and build God’s kingdom by giving of your treasure. Keep a running list of your ideas for the next group meeting.

- **Time**

This week, the way we will give of our time is through prayer. Try to set aside the first part of your day for prayer. It could even be as simple as waking up 10 minutes earlier than normal. Pray for what God puts on your heart. Pray that He would show you what giving should look like for you. Keep a running journal throughout the week of what God is sharing with you, and bring your journal with you for the next group meeting.

- **Talent**

Read 2 Corinthians 12:9–10 (MSG)

“My grace is enough; it’s all you need. My strength comes into its own in your weakness. Once I heard that, I was glad to let it happen. I quit focusing on the handicap and began appreciating the gift. It was a case of Christ’s strength moving in on my weakness. Now I take limitations in stride, and with good cheer, these limitations that cut me down to size—abuse, accidents, opposition, bad breaks. I just let Christ take over! And so the weaker I get, the stronger I become.”

Take a minute to reflect on areas of your life where you feel weak. Write down how you think God may be able to use these weaknesses as His strength. Share with one another in your groups.

CLOSING PRAYER

Take time in your smaller groups to pray for one another. Pray that God would strengthen everyone this week to be able to pray and give in new ways. If there are individual needs in the group, take time to lift them to God in prayer.

Tip Of The Week

Spirit Led Evaluation

Ask yourself these questions:

- Are group members growing closer to God?
- Is there more love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, self-control, and faithfulness?
- Are more people being added to your fellowship?

When your group is abiding in God, fruitfulness will be the evidence.

Bless A Life

Share Stories

Each week, continue to have people share their stories of how generosity or giving has impacted them.

To share your group pictures with us, email groups@gatewaypeople.com.

To share stories about tithing, email stories@gatewaypeople.com.