



The Joy of Giving

- Focus** God never intended for tithing to be drudgery. He always intended giving our tithes and offerings to be a celebration of thanksgiving unto Him.
- Open** Have you ever given someone a birthday or Christmas gift early because you just couldn't wait to give it to them? What was it, and why were you so excited?
- Read** God desires for us to enjoy giving as much as He does. He doesn't give out of drudgery or under compulsion, but with joy. Tithing and giving offerings are meant to be a celebration of our relationship with Him and an expression of thankfulness. Joy comes when we give by grace.
- Talk**
1. When did you first learn about the principle of tithing? What was your initial reaction? How do you feel about it now?
 2. What lies does the Devil want Christians to believe about giving? Why would the Devil work so hard to keep us from giving, especially financially?
 3. Read 2 Corinthians 9:7 and put it into your own words. Why does giving unleash joy in our lives? What does it mean for giving to be a "celebration"?
 4. If you were talking with someone who was hesitant to trust God in the area of giving, how would you encourage them to do so? What is your testimony or "story" about giving?

Live

1. Have you ever lived through a financial situation in which you knew God's favor was at work on your behalf? Briefly describe what happened and how the experience has impacted your thinking about giving.
2. When we begin to give more willingly and more extravagantly to God, what types of changes can we expect in our hearts? In our attitudes? Lifestyles? Relationship with God?

Pray

Individually, take a few minutes to ask God what your "next step" would be in becoming an extravagant giver. If you're not tithing, make a commitment to begin tithing. If you're tithing, but not giving offerings, ask for His direction about how much to give. If you are tithing and giving offerings, ask Him if He would have you give even more. Write down whatever impressions come to your mind so you can continue to pray about them at home.

As a group, thank God for the extravagance of His gifts. Thank Him for His promises to bless and give joy to those with open hearts. Ask for Him to show you what your "next step" is and for Him to help you to obey His voice.