

DEEPER/WIDER: GROUP STUDY

PART 3: WHAT'S YOUR PLAN?

MESSAGE RECAP

Once we recognize that God owns it all and embrace a definition of generosity that reflects the teaching of Jesus, the next step is to develop a plan—a generosity plan. Whether you realize it or not, you have a generosity plan. Everybody does. For most Americans it goes something like this: Spend – Save – Give. This results in me-first living with some left-over giving.

Jesus flipped the script by introducing “seek ye first” living. Consequently, the script we are called as Jesus followers looks like this: Give – Save – Spend. Embracing this financial template is a tangible expression of submission to our King.

CONNECT

Take a few minutes to discuss the following questions as a group:

- Have you ever seen someone’s *standard of living* negatively impact their *quality of life*?
- What, if anything, is your primary pushback to flipping the script in order to prioritize *giving* over maintaining your *standard of living*?

LEARN

Before watching the video together, take a few moments to pray. Here’s a simple prayer you can use:

Heavenly Father, give us the courage to consider and embrace a “seek ye first” approach to the way we manage our finances. Amen.

After praying, watch the [video for Part 3](#).

APPLY

After the video, discuss the following questions as a group:

1. What does it say about the average American that they are so quick to use debt to maintain a standard of living (a decision that often results in spending more than is necessary)? But they would never consider using debt to meet the needs of others or support a cause they believe in?
2. Why are we willing to “stretch” our finances to get what we want, yet only give what we are absolutely sure we can afford?

3. Read **Matthew 6:33**.

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well...

- What did “all these things” refer to?
- What is the significance of the word “first” in Jesus’s statement?
- By implication, if “his kingdom” is first, what comes second?

4. In the message Sunday, Andy introduced the “Two-Part, Two-Month Challenge”:

THE TWO-PART, TWO-MONTH CHALLENGE

1. Choose a percentage of your income to give away, and give it away within one week of receiving it.
2. Pay attention to the internal tension this challenge creates for you.

- If priority-percentage giving is currently your habit, share with the group some of the tension or resistance you had to work through to get there.
- If flipping your financial script strikes you as *complicated, impractical, or unwise*, share your thoughts with the group.

PRAY

We suggest ending your group with prayer. Here’s a sample prayer you can use:

Heavenly Father, show us any ways that we are tempted to place our trust in money instead of you. Help us to be people who seek your kingdom first. Amen.

BEFORE NEXT TIME

Continue reading the daily devotions found at deeperwider.com/devotional.