**WEEK 2**

**MANAGERS, NOT OWNERS**

The Bible clearly teaches that God wants us to be generous. Handling money in a way that pleases God begins with learning to see ourselves as managers and not owners. Read the following scriptures and answer a few questions related to each. The common thread in these three passages is that God is the true owner of things that we commonly view as our own.

**Matthew 25:14-30**

This story makes reference to property and also sums of money. To whom do they belong?

What did the man/master intend for his servants to do with what he entrusted to them?

On what basis was each servant judged upon the master’s return?

**Psalm 24:1-2**

What things are said to belong to God in this passage?

Why can He claim rightful ownership of them?

**I Corinthians 6:19-20**

What topic is being discussed in this passage? (Back up a few verses to examine the context.)

In this passage, what is said to belong to God?

On what basis can He claim rightful ownership?

**TITHING/STEWARDSHIP/GENEROSITY**

**From the Old Testament… Malachi 3:8-10**

What term is used to describe the act of withholding from God what He has asked for?

What consequence is mentioned in this passage as a result of this withholding?

What promise does God make when He invites His people to test Him in this matter?

**From the New Testament… 2 Corinthians 8-9**

Notice that Paul devotes two full chapters to the topic of generosity. Read **2 Corinthians 8:1-5.** Write down a few things for which Paul is commending the Macedonians.

**Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-8.**

In what ways are we told to give in these verses?

In what ways are we not to give?

DIG DEEPER…

Here are a couple of exercises for you to try on **BibleHub.com**.

* Start at the homepage. Scan down the page to where it says “Bible Study Tools.” Click on “Commentary.” Notice as you scan down that page that there are dozens of choices. Try clicking on #7, Expositor’s Bible Commentary. At the very top of the page you can select a scripture about which you’d like to read some scholarly comments. Select 2 Corinthians 8, for example. See if any questions you may have had while reading these verses about giving and generosity are explained in the notes provided there.
* Start at the homepage (BibleHub.com). This time click on the word “topics”. Then type “tithe” in the search box. Under the column that says “Topical Search” click on the first entry to see a variety of scriptures that talk about tithing. On that same page, scan down further to read some entries from various Bible dictionaries regarding the practice of tithing in the Old and New Testaments.

**Application**

Pray this week about your giving. What is God calling you to do in this area of your life? Is He calling you to be more generous? Is He calling you be more cheerful in your giving? Is He calling you to trust His promises related to tithing? Write down some next steps that you are ready to take to honor God in this area of your life.

**Group Discussion Questions**

* Why do you think there are so many passages in the Bible that talk about our need to be generous givers?
* Jesus said “Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also” (Matthew 6:21). What do you think he meant by that?
* Most pastors don’t enjoy talking about stewardship or tithing any more than church goers like hearing about it. What makes this an awkward topic of conversation?
* Paul mentioned that the Macedonians gave generously even when they were living in poverty (2 Corinthians 8:2). Why would God call even poor people to make giving a priority?
* The Bible speaks of God pouring out His blessings on His people when they are generous and make faithful giving a priority in their lives. How have you seen this happen?
* The Bible says that God loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:7). How would you say you are doing with this? Is giving a joy for you or does it feel more like an obligation?