

WHAT IF?

ANSWERING LIFE'S TOUGH QUESTIONS

LESSON 3 // MORE IS ASKED OF ME

Big Idea: All of us have felt at times that we were being asked to give more than we had. In these situations, while seeking God's wisdom and grace, it's important to remember that you were created by Him to give, and that little in the hands of Jesus is more than enough—more than you think! As you guard against “giving thieves,” reach out to replenish and keep pouring out so God can keep giving to you and through you.

2 Corinthians 9:7-8 (NIV) *Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.*

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 (NIV) *But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. ¹⁰ That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*

Luke 21:1-4 (NIV) *As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. ² He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. ³ “Truly I tell you,” he said, “this poor widow has put in more than all the others. ⁴ All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.*

Galatians 6:9 (CEV) *Don’t get tired of helping others. You will be rewarded when the time is right, if you don’t give up.*

Start Talking:

What are some “giving thieves” that might tempt you to withhold when God wants you to give?

Start Thinking:

Read 2 Corinthians 9:7-8. What do you learn from these verses about God’s approach to giving? How should this make a difference in your approach to giving?

Read 2 Corinthians 12:9-10. Why is God’s grace such an important part of giving? What role does humility play in giving?

Read Luke 21:1-4. How does the example of this poor widow encourage you?

Read Galatians 6:9. What are some of the rewards of giving that can inspire you to persevere when you grow tired?

Start Praying and Doing:

Pray that God will grant you grace and strength to give generously and joyfully of your time, talent and treasure for His purposes. Let the Holy Spirit use the Scriptures in this lesson to spur you on to “keep pouring,” even when it’s challenging, and ask Him to replenish you richly along the way.