

life groups' sermon guide

the treasure principle

God prospers me, not to raise my standard of living, but to raise my standard of giving.



LIFE GROUPS
doing life together

Life Groups exist at Kingsway to provide authentic relationships for spiritual growth, caring for one another, and reaching out to others.

In Preparation: You'll need a Bible, The Treasure Principle book by Randy Alcorn, paper/pens

Get Started:

Many of us have known people who've changed our lives and the lives of many others. They've left a legacy...could be a legacy of faith, or a legacy of impact, wise financial choices, opportunities to make a difference, or a legacy of personal growth that has influenced you in a great way.

Q: Who was that person? How did they impact your life?

Q: How important is it to you to be a person of impact? Explain why.

Alfred Nobel had an incredible opportunity to come face to face with his potential legacy.

Read The Treasure Principle, pages 79-80, to learn more about his story.

Q: What are some of your thoughts after reading that story?

In order to experience a bit of the same feelings Alfred Nobel had, we're going to take a few moments to write out our own obituaries. Grab a paper/pen, and start writing...

Q: What will you be remembered for?

Q: How will people describe you?

(allow 8-10 minutes for writing.)

Q: How did you feel after writing your own obituary?

Q: Were you pleased with your legacy?

Q: Is there something you'd like to change?

Maybe you're living a life that's Christ-centered, with few regrets. But, maybe you're like most people, and wish that summary of your life was more pleasing to the "Audience of One." (p. 82, book.) The good news is that you're still here and you still have an opportunity – with God's empowerment – to edit your life into what you and God see it can be.

Get the Scoop:

Read Romans 12: 4-8.

Q: What gifts did you notice were listed there?

Q: What do you think about the fact that GIVING is listed as a spiritual gift?

Pages 82-83 talk about this spiritual gift of GIVING and put it into a whole new perspective. Wouldn't God give generously to the people to whom He's also given the gift of giving? If we've been given much, we can give much. In today's culture, it's super-easy to compare and feel we come up short in the wealth category. However, a world-wide perspective can change all that...

My husband recently returned from visiting some missionaries on the other side of the world. He told about visiting the villages and participating in church services in one of the hut-like churches. We were sitting on our bed looking at all his pictures, when I asked him how big the church-hut was. He looked around our room, and realized that our bedroom was probably the same size as the church where 25-40 people had gathered to worship. To further drive home his point, let me share that we recently downsized to a home half the size of our previous home. Our bedroom is not large; no walk in closet, no sitting area, no room for a comfy chair... just room for the normal stuff you'd have in a bedroom.

It's in moments like these that I realize how very wealthy we are, and I'm driven to my knees in thanksgiving, repentance, and a desire to know what He wants me to do with what He's given us.

Q: Share some of your own "aha!" moments in realizing how much we have compared to those around the world.

Q: Do you have, or do you know someone who has the spiritual Gift of Giving? If so, could you share a story about God moving through their giving?

Dig In:

God's word is very clear about God's view of our riches, our giving, and His response.

Read these passages and make a list of God's expectations and blessings concerning our wealth:

Proverbs: 3:9-10

2 Corinthians 8:3, 7, 14

2 Corinthians 9:10-11

Luke 6:3-8

Malachi 3:8-10

Q: What is your gut-reaction to these verses? How are you challenged?

Take It Home

You have the opportunity to design your influence! Instead of living for the here and now, we have the amazing opportunity to invest in the Kingdom – to invest in something eternal, and to leave a legacy far greater than we can comprehend.

Q: (from pg. 81) Five minutes after you die, what will you wish you had given away, while you still had the chance? (you may want to make a list of all responses – check out how much can be done just in this group!)

Q: Why not give that away now?

Q: Who/what are some ministries, organizations you'd give to, if you had extra money? Why?
Q: What changes is God prompting you to make in order to free up money for Kingdom work?
Q: What's holding you back?
Q: What's God's promised response when we give?
Q: What's one thing you want people to say about you after you're gone? Are you acting upon that today?

Small group prayer time: Share with 1-2 individuals your desired legacy, the hurdle to reaching that legacy, and whether/not you're ready to jump. Spend some time praying for each other in small groups. Commit to – and set a date for - checking in w/ your prayer-partner over the next 2 weeks to check on progress toward this giving/Kingdom legacy commitment.

For Further Study, see pages 97-following in The Treasure Principle. It's packed with great questions!