

THE TREASURE PRINCIPLE

HANDOUT

Session 4: The Joy of Giving

REVIEW

The **fifth key** to the treasure principle says, “Giving is the only antidote to materialism.” Have you seen key number five work in your life? If so how? What risks come with giving? What’s on the line for us when we give?

Have you experienced the freedom that comes with giving? If so, how? If not, what other examples have you seen where the act of giving breaks the power of materialism in someone’s life?

Salvation includes submission to God’s authority, and that means relinquishing control of our story so that we can participate in His. How would you describe your personal story up to this point in your life? What are you living for? What impact do you want to make? What do you want to experience in the future?

What would change in your life if you swung the camera away from yourself and onto God and His story? How would your giving change?

What did you think of Randy’s argument that we need to practice giving to get good at it? What implications does the idea of practice have for how much we give? Why is the tithe (10%) a good starting point?

Bill and Cheryl in the real-life story were blessed with incredible income after they sold a portion of their business. How did Bill and Cheryl’s use of their money reflect their attitudes toward giving? What was the result of their giving for the Hope Center? What about for Bill and Cheryl?

The real-life story illustrated the **sixth key** of the treasure principle: “God prospers me, not to raise my standard of living, but to raise my standard of giving.” In what ways has God made you rich? How could you use those riches to bless others?

BIBLE EXPLORATION

Genesis 12:3. What is God calling Abraham (and his descendants) to do? What’s the goal?

Zechariah 8:1–8. Describe the scene that God’s painting in Zechariah 8:1–8. What does Jerusalem look like? What signs of blessings and prosperity do you see?

Zechariah 8:10–13. What’s God’s goal in saving Israel and returning the people to great prosperity again?

Zechariah 8:20–23. What is the result? How will the nations respond to God blessing His people?

Philippians 2:1–11. What is Paul getting at when he says, “Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves”?

Is he arguing for a mindset change only? If not, what actions does he expect to accompany the shift in priorities?

What does “looking to the interests of others” look like in practice? How does Randy’s teaching on giving away our blessings connect?

What is your biggest obstacle to living out the commands of Philippians 2:3–4? Why is it hard to look out for the interests of others?

Why is the Christian community so important in light of Philippians 2?

Paul goes on to describe Jesus’ incarnation as the supreme act of giving to others. Describe Jesus’ sacrifice in becoming human.

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What did He give up? What did He risk?

John 1:11 and Romans 5:8. What kind of thanks did Jesus receive for His gift?

Ultimately, according to Philippians 2, what is the result of Jesus' faithful giving of Himself in obedience to God? What is His future reward? Who gets the final glory?

What's currently standing in the way of you embracing the treasure principle? What are you going to do about those obstacles?

What can you start doing today, tomorrow, or this week to begin the practice of giving? Who do you need to consult? What conversations do you need to have?

LIVE IT OUT

Select at least one activity below to complete during the next week.

- Take Action:** Based on your answers through this study, choose one action step to follow up on this week: talking with your spouse, rearranging your budget, committing to accountability. Pick one and do it.
- Perspective Shift:** Pick a day and keep a log of the way you spend your time and money. Next to each item, identify it as a "me" action or expenditure, or an "others" action or expenditure. Then evaluate at the end of the day, and pick one area to begin focusing on others rather than yourself.
- Memorize:** Commit the whole treasure principle and its keys to memory. Allow them to soak into your mind so that you can approach the moments in your day with an eye toward selfless giving.
- Interact:** Identify one or two people in your study group that you can work with to develop others-focused giving habits. Ask them to help you stay accountable, and offer to help them as well.
- Pray:** Spend time praying this week for God's grace in growing your giving habits. Identify the one or two attitudes or actions you need His divine intervention in, and ask Him repeatedly for help. Keep a record of success you see as God works in you.