



REACH
OUR WORLD

**LIFEGROUP
STUDY GUIDE**

REACH OUR WORLD LIFEGROUPS

Thank you for being a part of our REACH OUR WORLD LifeGroups. We look forward to partnering with you through this powerful series. Know that we are praying with you and for you. I am confident that God will accomplish His purpose through you, and we will see many people find greater community and spiritual freedom in the following weeks.

We've designed this curriculum so that you can bring it to GraceLife with you each weekend, take notes during the message, and then bring them to your group during the week for further study.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our LifeGroups team.

See you Sunday!

Pastor Jimmy Currence

WEEK 1 | SEEING GOD'S VISION

WARM UP

Have you ever been a part of something that was exciting and reached beyond your own life? Maybe a community-wide project or event, or something that focused on change of some sort? Share it with the group.

INTRODUCTION

This week, we are starting an exciting new series entitled REACH OUR WORLD. In this series, we will take a look at a theme that occurs throughout Scripture: that God desires for every one of His children to live their lives in such a way that the weight of their lives is felt for generations. If you consider the lives of Biblical characters like Abraham, it is clear that God had designed his life to leave a legacy that would literally be felt all over the world, and for centuries to come. We see that Abraham's journey toward leaving a God-designed legacy began when he encountered and embraced God's vision for his life.

Vision is a clear picture of a preferable future. God has a vision for each of our lives that He wants to make clear to us. Our ability to live in God's vision for our lives is dependent upon us seeing that vision. God will reveal it to us as we turn our hearts toward Him, and truly desire to know and obey His will.

DISCUSSION

Read Habakkuk 2:2-3 together as a group. In this passage we see the importance of having a clear picture of what God is calling us to. When God begins to place His vision for our lives in our hearts, it's important to write it down. Read it. Meditate upon it. Ponder it in your heart. Think about it continually. In our time together today, we are going to take a look at the life of Abraham, how he was able to see God's vision, and how we can discern God's vision for our own lives. So let's look at Abraham's life and see **Three Signs of a God-Sized Vision:**

1. God's vision for our lives is always bigger than us.

Read Genesis 12:1-3 together as a group. God's dream for Abraham was bigger than him and would ultimately affect more than just Abraham and his immediate family. Notice what God said at the end of verse 3: *"And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."* God actually planned on touching the whole world through one man's life!

We are created to be a part of something that is larger than ourselves. Each of our uniquely designed lives is intended to be lived out in the context of something bigger than just us. We are created in such a way that each of our specific purposes can only be realized in the larger context of the body of Christ.

God's vision for us also requires that He is able to move through our lives in powerful ways as we exercise our faith. Ephesians 3:20 says, *"Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us."*

Question: What do you think God's vision for your life looks like? How do you think that vision will impact others beyond your life and even your generation?

2. God's vision for our lives is impossible to accomplish without His help.

Read Romans 4:16-22 together as a group. Put yourself in Abraham's shoes for a moment. God had spoken to him and given him a clear picture of his future; and it included lots of kids! Here he is about one hundred years old, his wife just slightly younger, and zero kids...not even one, much less the "multitude" that God had promised. The verses we just read said that Abraham considered himself and Sarah as good as dead when it came to bearing children.

As far as Abraham's ability to accomplish this vision in his own strength, things couldn't have looked much worse. God even told Abraham to leave his family and familiar surroundings so that he couldn't call on other relationships to pull it off. That doesn't mean that we shouldn't depend on one another in healthy relationships. As we learned in the first point, we are created to live in fellowship with other Christians, but **there will be elements of God's vision for you that will depend completely upon God's supernatural, miraculous intervention.**

If the vision that you have for your life is one that you can accomplish on your own, rest assured – there is more to God's vision for you.

Question: What part of God's vision for your life can only be attained by the working of His miraculous power in and through your life?

3. God's vision for my life is compelling.

Read Romans 4:18 again as a group. Abraham lived with the vision that he would become the father of many nations. His vision was not just bigger than himself, it was inspiring and meaningful to others. God reiterated this vision to Abraham's son Isaac in Genesis 26. His descendants continued to live for this vision. Four generations after God spoke to Abraham, He used Abraham's great grandson, Joseph, to save the world from a devastating famine. And a couple thousand years after that, God used Abraham's descendant – Jesus – to save the world for all of eternity.

God's vision for your life has "big-picture" implications. It will compel others to be involved, and its impact will be felt for generations.

Question: What plans or priorities in your life may need to be adjusted in order to accomplish God's vision for your life?

SUMMARY

1. God's vision for our lives is always bigger than us.
2. God's vision for our lives is impossible to accomplish without His help.
3. God's vision for my life is meaningful

PRAYER

Pray that God would begin to speak to you concerning His will and vision for your life. Pray for anyone in your group who feels like they are struggling to see God's vision for their lives.

Then focus on the following prayer points:

- Pray that the Holy Spirit would help us see God's vision and take our next steps.
- Pray that we would be able to clearly see God's vision for GraceLife Church and for each of us personally during the REACH OUR WORLD series.

WEEK 2 | LIVING GOD'S WAY

WARM UP

What do you think of when you hear the word SURRENDER? (Go around the room and ask each person what word or phrase came to mind.)

INTRODUCTION

This week, we are continuing the journey through our series entitled REACH OUR WORLD. Last week we learned that God's vision is bigger than us and it requires us to depend on Him.

This week, we're talking about living God's way, which, at its core, requires surrendering to Him. As we have just talked about, we have many different thoughts when it comes to the idea of SURRENDERING.

As we begin our lesson, let's **read Romans 12:1-2 together as a group.**

The Bible is very clear in this passage. We are to continually offer our lives as a sacrifice to God. We are to live a life of sacrifice, or in other words, a life surrendered to God. Interestingly, in this passage Paul is showing us that we are not just a sacrifice, but a living sacrifice. The funny thing about a living sacrifice is – it has a tendency to crawl off the altar. The life of surrender we live as Christians is a continual process - not a one-time action. We have to come back to it each day, each week, each year. Yes, there is an initial surrender when we come to Christ. However, there is a re-surrendering over and over and over.

Let's take a moment and look at the life of Abraham, how he continuously surrendered his life to God's will.

DISCUSSION

Abraham was promised to be the father of many nations twice, in Genesis 12 and 15. God gave him a fantastic vision of all that would be accomplished through his life. God called Abraham “a father of many nations,” but he didn't even have a son when God promised that. Abraham was almost 100 years old when his son was finally born, 25 years after the promise. Isaac represented the fulfillment of that promise. However, when Isaac was still young, we find Abraham faced with a difficult question from God, a test – would he choose to live a life of re-surrender?

Read the story found in Genesis 22:1-18 together as a group. Abraham passed the test and we see his legacy today as a result! Let's look at the first key to Living God's Way:

1. Abraham was Willing to Re-surrender.

In verse 2, we see the Angel putting out the unimaginable challenge to Abraham: take your son – the one that you love – and place him on the altar.

God often tests us with the things that are the most important to us—the things we love the most and can't seem to live without. It seems that the more we have in life—money, possessions, success, dreams, and family—the more of a challenge, or test, it becomes in re-surrendering those things back to God.

The things we often pull off the altar of God first, are the things we love the most. God is fine with us having possessions, with us having a great family, and having great dreams—as long as those things don't possess us. Our human nature is to grip and hold on to the things we love the most. However, if we grip those things too tightly they will get off the altar and hinder what God wants to do in our life. They can become an idol in our lives.

Question: Why do you think God tested Abraham by asking him to sacrifice his son, Isaac, the promised son?

Why is it that we “grip tightly” the things that are most important to us? Share an experience or time in your life where you loosened your grip of something you loved dearly? How did it turn out? Why does God test us like this?

2. Abraham Trusted God as His Provider.

Read Genesis 22:8 and 14 together as a group. If you trace back into Abraham's story, you see a foundation of trust that was built. Abraham was getting to know God and was learning to trust that God was faithful to provide in any and every circumstance. We see in verse 5 that Abraham knew that God would intervene when he said "we will be back." Abraham saw Isaac as the vessel by which God's dream and vision would come to fruition. God wanted to know if Abraham would continue to trust Him. Abraham was being asked to offer up his dream, his child. Read Hebrews 11:17-19 together as a group.

Question: When God first called Abraham, He told him to leave his entire life behind and follow Him to an unknown land. Has God ever asked you to do something that seemed crazy or uncertain before? What was it? What did you do?

Surrendering to God marked Abraham's entire life. Do you think living God's way always requires surrender? Why or why not?

3. God Blessed, Multiplied and Gave a Great Legacy to Abraham.

Read Genesis 22:15-18 together as a group. Because Abraham was willing to re-surrender his son Isaac, God blessed him, multiplied him and gave him one of the greatest legacies that we see in all of Scripture. Maybe God has been tapping you on the shoulder and asking you, "How far will you go?" These "how-far-will-you-go" questions, many times, provide critical turning points in our lives. As we have learned today re-surrender is a test of the things we love most.

Question: If God should ask you "how far will you go?" - in re-surrendering your dreams, money, family, and possessions, how do you think you would respond? Do you think surrendering to God is difficult or easy?

Why is trusting God vital to our ability to surrender to Him and live His way?

SUMMARY

1. Abraham was willing to re-surrender.
2. Abraham trusted God as His provider.
3. God blessed, multiplied, and gave a great legacy to Abraham.

PRAYER

Pray for each other, that you would respond to God's call to re-surrender. Pray for anyone who is struggling to surrender a certain area of their life to God.

Then focus on the following prayer points:

- Pray that we would each submit to God's will and trust Him with a deeper faith.
- Pray that as we embark on the REACH OUR WORLD journey, God would speak to each of us, and we would follow Him however He leads.

WEEK 3 | HEARING GOD'S VOICE

WARM UP

Has anyone ever asked you to do something but not given you enough information to complete the task?

INTRODUCTION

Before we can actually do something, we have to know clearly what we're supposed to do. If we don't know what we're supposed to do, then we can't do it. This is also true in our relationship with God. Before we can obey God, we have to know what He's telling us to do. Hearing God's voice is the most important first step to obedience.

We're in the third week of our REACH OUR WORLD series, and this week, we're talking about hearing God's voice. Today, we're going to look at the ways God speaks to us, and how we respond to His voice.

DISCUSSION

Read **Isaiah 30:21** and **John 10:27** together as a group. The Bible teaches us here that God speaks to every Believer.

Question: Share a time when you were confused if you were really hearing God and asked the question – “is that me or is that God?”

Romans 8:14, says: *“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.”* We are led by the Lord. God is talking with us and speaking to us. As we surrender to God, in our daily lives we say, “God, I belong to you, please speak to me.” We begin to tune in and hear Him.

In the Middle East, even today in those nomadic areas, large flocks and herds of sheep can be found grazing in the same area. Each flock has a different shepherd and, at times, hundreds of sheep will be milling around together. When one of the shepherds leaves with his flock, he calls out with a certain word or song, and out of the large flock the sheep follow their shepherd. When the shepherd speaks, his sheep know his voice, and they follow him.

That's who we are as believers. We follow Jesus, hear the voice of the Shepherd, and the Shepherd speaks to us. God is speaking to every one of us everyday.

Question: What do you do (personally) when you need to hear God's voice about something you're facing?

Have you ever been in a situation where if felt like God was silent? What did you do?

In the remainder of our lesson we are going to learn **Two Ways We Hear the Voice of God.**

1. We hear God through the Bible.

Jesus said in **Matthew 4:4**: *“But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’”*

If we are going to learn the Spanish language, we've got to study Spanish. If we're going to learn to hear God, we need to study God's Word – the Bible. This the primary way he God talks to us. If you don't study a language, you won't be able to speak it. If you don't study God through His Word, you won't know God.

Unlike every other book in the world, the Bible is alive. Hebrews 4:12 says: *“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing*

even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

How do we practically hear God in our lives? We hear God as we wait on the Lord. As we slow down, meditate on His Word, and ask God how we can, personally, apply His truth to our lives.

Joshua 1:8 is a practical model of how the Bible comes alive to us: *This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.*

Question: What are a couple of practical ways we can interact with the Word of God as seen in this verse? (Speaking and Meditating) Name a time when God spoke to you, clearly. How did He speak to you? What happened?

2. We Hear God through the Holy Spirit

There are a lot of people that think that God only speaks through the Bible, but His Holy Spirit is also seeking to communicate with us through an inner witness or voice. Romans 8:16 says: *The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.*

An inner witness is an impression; a supernatural knowing. The Holy Spirit's voice can be heard in prayer or just as you are walking through life. The Holy Spirit's voice can produce: a strong, clear recurring thought; a deep, calming peace; genuine excitement; an inner warning, caution or "check." God will never tell you do something by the Holy Spirit that contradicts the Bible.

Question: Share a time when the Holy Spirit prompted you - maybe you were encouraged to avoid a situation or encouraged to help someone. Did He speak to you through His Word, through an impression of the Holy Spirit, or through godly relationships, like a pastor or mentor?

SUMMARY

1. We hear God through the Bible.
2. We hear God through the Holy Spirit
3. We hear God through godly relationships

PRAYER

Pray together for discipline to study the Word of God and the sensitivity to hear the Holy Spirit. Is there anyone in your group who feels like they struggle to hear God's voice? Is there anyone who feels like God has told them something specific that they would like prayer for?

Then focus on the following prayer points:

- Pray that as a church family, we would be receptive to hearing God's voice.
- Pray that God would speak to each individual during the REACH OUR WORLD series.
- Pray that the leadership of GraceLife Church would continue to hear God's voice as we go forward with our future.

WEEK 4 | OBEYING GOD'S CALL

WARM UP

Do you think parents would rather have their children's obedience or their hearts? Why?

INTRODUCTION

Obedience is ultimately a condition of the heart. Sure, you can use the threat of punishment or pain to force someone to obey you, but that's not the same as someone obeying out of a heart of obedience. It's no different with our relationship with God. He wants us to obey Him out of a heart that has been changed, not because we "have to" or because we've been forced to obey.

This is the fourth week of our REACH OUR WORLD series, and last week we talked about hearing God's voice - the important first step to obedience. Today we're going to look at the concept of obedience, the fears that keep us from obeying God, and the steps we can take to obey God in a greater way.

DISCUSSION

Hearing God is vital to our walk as a Christian. However, hearing God and obeying God are two different things. **Read John 14:23 and James 2:14-17** together as a group. In the John verse, we see that obedience is not a rule book, it's a condition of the heart. Obedience is the process of surrendering, listening, and then acting. The essence of obedience is loving God. In James, we see the importance of our faith being demonstrated by our obedience and commitment to Christ.

Many people battle with obedience. However, most of the time it is not direct disobedience but rather delayed or partial obedience. Delayed obedience is obeying up until a point of insecurity or uncomfortability. Delayed obedience happens when we wait to respond, when we question God, or we compromise our obedience.

Question: Why do we directly disobey God sometimes? Why do we delay obedience sometimes?

In the message we discussed four different fears that tempt us to disobey God – the fear of failure, the fear of success, the fear of man, and the fear of the future.

Question: Can you think of a time when God told you to do something, but you faced one of these fears. What happened?

In this lesson we are going to learn **3 Steps to Walking in Obedience:**

1. Believe God is for You.

Obedience starts with one thing – knowing that God is good.

God is the perfect Father. He is all knowing, all seeing, and all powerful. He has our very best interests in mind. He is not out to extract the joy from our life but to optimize our life.

Read Matthew 7:11, Romans 8:31, and Jeremiah 29:11 together as a group. We see in these verses that God is for us, He loves us and has a distinct plan for our lives. We see that God wants to provide for us, and is mindful of who we are – and where we are.

Question: What characteristic of God from these verses most sticks out to you? Why? Why is it, at times, hard to believe God is for us?

2. Don't Believe a Negative Report.

Often, the very first thing that you hear when you make a stand to obey and respond to God is the voice of opposition. The voice of opposition can come against us.

In the Old Testament, Joshua faced this voice when God called him to go into the Promised Land. Ten out of the twelve spies came back and said "Hey, the inhabitants in the land are big, and we can't overtake them." But instead of listening to the spies Joshua heeded God's voice and had the faith to say "God is bigger than any giant, than any obstacle." When you stand up to obey you may hear all types of things, even from your closest friends and family. You may hear: "You are just too good for everyone else now." You may hear "Oh, you've changed. You're not person I used to know."

When you step out to move towards God and fully obey His call and passion for your life, honestly, there is no telling what you will hear. What is important is to allow God's voice to determine our actions and not these negative reports.

Question: Have you ever started to obey God and felt the "voices of opposition" discourage you? What did you do?

3. Just Do It!

Hear the voice of God, confirm it in His Word, in prayer and through godly counsel if you need to – but just do it. Don't live in the fear of what others may say, think or do.

Obedience precedes the miraculous. God told Noah in Genesis 6, "Go build yourself an ark," and he did it, even though everybody was making fun of him, and said "This is the craziest thing." God told the leper, Naaman, in 2 Kings 5, "Go dip seven times" in the Jordan River. He obeyed; when he did, he was supernaturally healed. Jesus told Peter in Matthew 14, "Come to me on the water." Peter obeyed. The miraculous happened. He walked on the water. Our obedience releases the power and provision of God in our lives.

Question: This may seem like a simple question, but it's important: Why is it sometimes necessary to just step out in faith and obey?

Is there something God has been asking you to do? What positive impact could your obedience have in the lives of those around you?

SUMMARY

1. Believe God is for you.
2. Don't believe the voice of opposition.
3. Just do it!

PRAYER

Pray together to not only hear the voice of God but obey it. Is there anyone struggling with obeying God in some area of their life?

Then focus on the following prayer points:

- Pray that God would capture our hearts and that we would obey Him out of our changed hearts.
- Pray that we would be people who obey God immediately and that He would overcome our fears.
- Pray that God speaks to us about our individual role in the REACH OUR WORLD journey, we would hear His voice, step out in faith, and obey.

WEEK 5 | PREPARING FOR A MIRACLE

WARM UP

Have you ever seen a miracle? Maybe it was the miracle of a changed life, a restored relationship, a healing, a miraculous provision, or a supernatural breakthrough. What was it?

INTRODUCTION

So far in our REACH OUR WORLD series, we've talked about surrendering our lives to God and living His way. We've looked at hearing His voice, and we've discussed obeying His call. Today, we're going to talk about preparing for a miracle. We will learn how we can see supernatural miracles take place in our lives by partnering with God.

DISCUSSION

From the Bible we learn why and how miracles take place. It is interesting to note that the only miracle that was included in all four Gospels is the feeding of the multitude. In this lesson, we are going to take some time to look into that miracle in order to learn **how a biblical miracle works**. Get started by **reading John 6:1-13 together as a group**.

1. A biblical miracle begins where there is a need.

Jesus had been teaching all day and it was getting late. The people were getting hungry and needed to eat. There was a definite need and problem. How did the miracle begin? It wasn't with faith or prayer. It started with a need. There is one thing you can say about every miracle in the Bible – each one begins where there is a need or problem. The good news is – most of us have problems and needs. The rest of the good news is – if we have a problem or a need, we're a candidate for a miracle. If we have big problems we are set up for big miracles. The only person who has a real problem is the person that doesn't have a problem or a need – because they think they don't need God!

Right now, GraceLife Church is a candidate for a miracle because we are in a place of need. We need: more seats on Sunday mornings, more parking spots, and more space in the children's and nursery areas. So we're in great shape as a family because we are positioned for a miracle.

Question: What need are you or someone close to you facing right now? Maybe it is a medical, financial, spiritual, or emotional challenge.

2. Where there is a need, sensed by a group of people.

Read Mark 6:35 together as a group. The Disciples realized they had a problem. It was at the end of the day, and they had a big, hungry crowd they needed to feed. The important thing is – they brought that need to Jesus. Hopefully, you and I realize when we have a problem and we choose to bring that to Jesus. With every problem that we have, He has a solution for us – but it requires our obedience.

What do many of us do when we have a problem? Well, we step back and cheer on God. We sing songs to Him, and we even quote Scriptures to Him. Those things are great but, we often struggle getting involved with Him when we are in need. We often want God to do miracles without our participation. Sometimes what we are looking for from God is not a miracle, but magic. The truth is – without God we cannot and without us He will not. In today's passage we see a couple of people who got involved in the miracle – the little boy who surrendered

his lunch and the Disciples who worked to get the food out to the thousands of people. Jesus told the Disciples in Mark 6:37: ...“You give them something to eat.”

We see here that God chooses to work through people. Think about it: God said to Noah, “Do you want to protect your family from destruction? Then build an ark.” Jesus said to the lame man, “Do you want to walk again? Then rise, pick up your mat, and walk.” God wants to partner with us in seeing miracles happen.

Question: God performs miracles yet chooses to work through people. Why do you think God chooses to partner with us to bring about His miracles?

Do you think we sometimes resist stepping out and partnering with God? Why or why not?

3. Step out, regardless of the odds.

Read John 6:8-9 together as a group. At first, the disciples had a hard time finding food. But do remember that Jesus told them to do that very thing. Then they found a young boy. It probably didn't make sense to the boy to give his small lunch. But faith gives because God asks for it, not because it makes sense.

Maybe you feel like all you have is just a little bit of resources. God is not looking at your lunch box or your wallet; He is looking at your faith and obedience. If the young boy could step out today and say one thing to us he would say: **God can only multiply what you offer Him.**

Question: Has God ever asked you to step out of your “comfort zone” or to do something that didn't seem to make sense? What was it? What happened?

SUMMARY

1. A Biblical miracle begins where there is a need.
2. A Biblical miracle begins when a miracle is sensed by a group of people.
3. A Biblical miracle begins when someone steps out, regardless of the odds.

PRAYER

Pray for the members of your group that they will trust God and put their “lunch” in His hands. Is there anyone who needs a miracle in their life right now? Do they feel they have a new perspective on the situation?

Then focus on the following prayer points:

- Pray that God would prepare our hearts for the miracle that He is going to perform through our REACH OUR WORLD journey.
- Pray that we would be sensitive to hear God's voice and that we would be obedient to partner with Him in what He wants us to do.
- Pray that God would use your obedience to meet needs in your day-to-day life as you seek to partner with Him.

WEEK 6 | LEAVING A LEGACY

WARM UP

What friend, family member, or even famous individual has left a legacy you admire? What did they do to leave such a strong legacy?

INTRODUCTION

This week, we are finishing our journey through our REACH OUR WORLD series. Today, in our lesson entitled Leaving a Legacy, we are going to look at 1 Chronicles 29 and see the impact that a group of people can make together when they corporately obey God.

DISCUSSION

In this chapter of 1 Chronicles, we will see a group that found themselves in a situation where they needed to build a facility in order to accommodate more people in worshipping God. **Read 1 Chronicles 29:1-9** together as a group.

There are a couple of words and phrases that we can glean out of this passage:

1. “The Work is Great”

Verse 1 says: *Furthermore King David said to all the assembly: “My son Solomon, whom alone God has chosen, is young and inexperienced; and the work is great, because the temple is not for man but for the LORD God.*

The task that was set before David as he began to build the temple was great. As in the time of David, the task set out before us a church is great. Our new home is going to allow us to reach thousands more people, both locally and globally. We must remember that this new house is not a house for us—we have our own houses—this is a house for God. This is about God’s dream, and His desire to have a house large enough to accommodate what He wants to do in and through us as a church.

Question: In truth, any endeavor that we undertake for God is a “great work.” What do you think about the REACH OUR WORLD journey and what we’ve endeavoring to do as a family for God? Who do you hope might be reached in our community?

2. “Set my affection”

Verse 3a says: *Moreover, because I have set my affection on the house of my God, I have given to the house of my God,...*

There are a lot of causes that we can invest **our time, our talent and our treasures** in. However, there is none more powerful than the local church. Why is that? – **The local church is the hope of the world.** The local church is the body of Christ and is commanded to go out, reach the world, care for the hurting, and encourage the lonely to set them in families. It is the church’s responsibility to be involved in transforming this world, to respond in times of need, and to stand up for justice. We need to see that the local church is the primary way that a community is impacted and the world is changed. David set his heart, his affection, and his resources on the house of God. We should be encouraged to do the same.

Question: How do affections affect our giving?

Read Matthew 6:33. How has God promised to respond to those who set their hearts on His priorities?

3. “Over and above”

Verse 3b-d says: *I have given to the house of my God, over and above all that I have prepared for the holy house, my own special treasure of gold and silver.*

David was a tither. But David also gave extravagantly over and above offerings to the Lord when he had the opportunity. God always multiplies what you offer or give to Him over and above your tithe. Remember from last week’s message - only what we put in the hands of Jesus can be multiplied.

Question: Do you think “over and above” our tithe is difficult? Why or why not? In what ways does God bless the “over and above” gift?

Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-11. What is God’s promise to those who “sow bountifully?” Share a time when God multiplied what you had given.

4. “They consecrated themselves”

1 Chronicles 29:5d says: *“Who then is willing to consecrate himself this day to the LORD?”* We can’t separate our finances from our spirituality. This is a spiritual challenge and yet the context is about giving an offering. The word “consecrate” here means to set apart. Who then is willing to be set apart on this journey? Similarly, we are encouraged to join God in this journey in consecrating our hearts, our lives, and our finances to Him.

Question: Have you ever made a decision to consecrate something in your life to the Lord? How did that decision change your life?

5. “Then the leaders offered willingly”

Verse 6 says: *Then the leaders...offered willingly.*

It is interesting that David challenged the leaders to go first and set the stage. Each one of us has the opportunity to lead the way for those who will come after us. We are preparing the way for those in our community and around the globe who have yet to respond to the message of the gospel. We are preparing the way for our children and grandchildren to walk strong with God and fulfill His dream for them. They will be, in essence, standing on our shoulders.

Question: What is most important to you in preparing the way for those who will come after you - either biological or spiritual children?

6. “The people offered willingly”

Verse 9 says: *Then the people rejoiced, for they had offered willingly...*

There was great rejoicing in that place as the people offered willingly. Their hearts had embraced God’s dream and they were excited to see it accomplished.

We also have been on a journey. Each week we are seeing a glimpse of what God wants to accomplish in and through us. We can then rejoice with the same sense of excitement and anticipation as the people of David’s time.

Question: Verses 6-9 say that both the leaders and the people “offered willingly” their gifts to build the temple. Why did the people offer their gifts willingly? How does that apply to us today?

SUMMARY

1. The work is great.
2. David set his affections on the house of God.
3. David gave over and above
4. They consecrated (set apart) themselves.
5. The leaders willingly followed.
6. The people offered willingly.



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