

A SACRIFICE OF THANKSGIVING: GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER

Small Group Discussion Guide

SERMON SUMMARY This concluding message on stewardship examines how true giving flows from understanding God's dual nature as awesome Creator and personal covenant-keeper. Drawing from Psalm 50 and 2 Corinthians 9, the sermon emphasizes God's desire for thanksgiving and cheerful generosity rather than reluctant obligation. Practical guidance includes moving beyond the traditional tithe and trusting God's provision.

KEY SCRIPTURES

- Psalm 50:14
- 2 Corinthians 9:6-7
- Luke 14:33
- Numbers 18:21-32
- Deuteronomy 14:22-29

OPENING DISCUSSION (15 minutes)

- What stood out to you most from today's sermon?
- How has your view of giving changed over your spiritual journey?

GOD'S CHARACTER AND GIVING (20 minutes) Read Psalm 50:14 and discuss:

- How does understanding God's nature affect our giving?
- What's the difference between giving from obligation versus thanksgiving?
- Share experiences where giving brought joy rather than burden.

PRINCIPLES OF GENEROUS GIVING (20 minutes) Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 and discuss:

- What does "sowing generously" look like in practice?
- How do we balance planned giving with spontaneous generosity?
- What prevents us from giving more generously?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION (20 minutes)

- How can we teach generosity to the next generation?
- What steps could you take to increase your giving intentionally?
- Where beyond the local church do you feel called to give?

CLOSING REFLECTION (15 minutes)

- What one change will you make in your giving practices?
- How can we pray for each other regarding stewardship?

PRAYER FOCUS

- Gratitude for God's provision
- Wisdom in stewardship
- Growth in generosity
- Trust in God's faithfulness

NEXT STEPS

- Review your current giving patterns
- Pray about areas to increase generosity
- Create a plan for intentional giving
- Consider new opportunities to give