

Vision: My preferred future

Trust: Compartmentalized trust leads to distrust-insecurity-fear- unloved

Two mindsets

- **Scarcity- there is not enough.** John 6:7-9
Scarcity cycle: We consume - we lack - we fear – we consume.
- **Abundance: There is more than enough.** Matthew 14:20
Abundance cycle: we give- God multiplies- faith (trust)- we give

This is what we do:

- We give generously. 2 Corinthians 9:7-9
- God multiplies abundantly. 2 Corinthians 9:10-11
- Our Faith (Trust) grows.

Tithing breaks the cycle of scarcity and creates a new cycle of abundance.

The power of the tithe:

1. The tithe teaches us to put God first. Deuteronomy 14:23
2. The tithe builds our faith (trust). Malachi 3:10-11
3. The tithe provides for the work of God's church.

Welcome to the Winter Session of Life Groups! Many of our Life Groups use this insert as a discussion guide throughout the week. If you're not in a Life Group, consider taking that Next Step and joining one today! www.seekreallife.com/groups

Share your story

What is your favorite gift you gave someone this Christmas?

What is great about the new year? What is challenging about it?

What insight, question, or resolution did you discover from our time of worship together on Sunday?

Connect to God's story

In the following passage Paul is sharing his story with the leaders of the church in Ephesus as a parting example of how to live generously.

Read Acts 20:33-35.

Describe a time when you gave generously. How did it make you feel?

Why do you think we can struggle believing that giving has a much greater blessing than receiving?

Read 2 Corinthians 9:10-13.

Why is it important to be trustworthy, faithful, and honest in the little things? How are you doing in this area?

What is it about money that enslaves? How can being enslaved to money hinder your ability to serve God?

Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19.

When you think of money, do you see it as a tool or a source? Why?

Why do you think it's easier to trust in money than God?

How can the love and pursuit of money hinder you from experiencing true life?

What do you need to change in your life to make the following statement a reality?

"I will not trust in riches but in God who richly provides."

What are three specific things you can ask God to help you with in the next month to make this change?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**Honor the LORD with your wealth
and with the best part of everything you produce.**

- Proverbs 3:9 (NLT)

My Prayer for 2018

Father, examine me closely, deeply, and thoroughly. I am opening every aspect of my life to you. I am holding nothing back. Open my eyes to you, open my mind to you, open my heart to you that I may know you more and continue to grow into my original design you created me to be.

I confess, I am open to your revealing and transforming work in my life.

I confess, I am open to be used by you as a divine instrument of love, grace and hope wherever your Spirit leads.

I confess, I am open to be blessed by you with every spiritual, emotional and physical blessing you desire to give.

In Jesus name,
Amen

My next step:

1. Give regularly

2. Give proportionally (tithe)

3. Give extravagantly (Generous people plan to do what is generous.)

Guides at the Next Steps area have help, resources and encouragement to help you take your next step in trust. We are all growing step-by-step.