Balanced: Giving
Derek Sanford
January 22, 2017

Life Group Discussion Questions:

1. Thinking back on this week's sermon, is there a particular point you recall that caught your attention or you found challenging or confusing?

2. Read **Luke 12:16-34**. The big idea is: We honor God with our faithful giving. In this parable was the rich man saving or hoarding? What do these verses say about why it's foolish to hoard?

3. Pastor Derek said the poorest of us is richer than 95% of the rest of the world. Read **1 John 3:17; Deut. 16:17; Proverbs 3:27; Luke 3:11; James 2:15-16** – How can we determine what we really need and what God has given us to share with others?

4. How can we raise our awareness of the spiritual needs in our community and our world? How has God used that awareness to spur you to invest in ministry?

5. **Read Luke 12:32,33 and Luke 6:38.** What do these verses have to say about the effects of giving in our lives? What changes has giving made in your life?

6. Read **Luke 12:34 & Matt. 6:19-21** Why did Jesus say "Where your treasure is there your heart will be… " instead of "Where your heart is there your treasure will be…" ? How does your treasure lead your heart?

7. Derek pointed out that generosity has its source in our response to God's grace to us. What are some benefits of making a plan in advance to give a certain percentage to God? **Read 2 Corinth. 9:6-11**. How does God promise to provide for our giving?

Next Steps: Decide on a step you will take to move forward in your giving (examples: take a class; commit to tithe or set a percentage moving toward a tithe; decide to sacrifice a luxury to give to meet someone's need) If you are willing, share your decisions with your group and pray for one another.

Prayer Thought:

Jesus, We can only give what You have first given to us. Thank You for Your promise to provide all our needs and to provide for our giving also. We are excited to see what You will do as we step out in faith to participate in Kingdom ministry in Your name. Amen.