



The Power of Offerings – Week Two

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Overview

In this second message of our *In God We Trust* series, we will focus on the power of offerings and the four types of giving. We'll also discuss 2 Corinthians 9 to learn what God has to say about the blessings that happen when we sow.

Discussion Questions

There are some amazing impacts of generosity in our lives:

- Generosity makes us feel happy.
- Generosity is good for our health.
- Generosity promotes cooperation and social connection.
- Generosity is contagious.
- Jesus said in Acts 20:35: “...It is more blessed to give than to receive.” Of the four impacts of generosity listed above, which one(s) have you experienced? Why do you think it truly is more blessed to give than to receive?

Four Types of Giving

1. <u>Tithes</u>	<u>Offerings</u> 2. Missions Giving 3. Giving to the Poor 4. Giving to the Building of the Temple and Tabernacle
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Tithes

The tithes means “a tenth” or ten percent. It is the starting place for our giving, and it’s key that we give our tithes **first** to God. When we tithe, we return to God what is already His. We release our faith by showing we trust Him.

Offerings

Offerings are over and above the tithes. The Bible often uses the word, **seed**, to describe an offering. One important difference between tithes and offerings is that the tithes is not a seed. Our seed or offerings start after the tithes. The Bible always speaks of offerings in the context of sowing and reaping--also known as seedtime and harvest.

In 2 Corinthians 9:6, Paul says, “...**He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.**” This Scripture states the basic law of giving which is sowing and reaping. A person’s harvest in life depends entirely on what they sow.

- What influence do you have on the harvest you reap? Can you change what you harvest by changing the kind of seed you sow?

Three Reasons We Give:

1. We love God.
 2. We want to help people.
 3. We need a harvest.
- Why is the “order” of reasons significant?

Four Blessings When We Sow:

1. **Seed for the sower.**
 - In 2 Corinthians 9:6, seed refers to money, which God gives to sowers. How is our giving influenced when we see offerings as sowing seed that reaps a harvest?
2. **Bread for food.**

2 Corinthians 9:10 says, “**Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness.**” Through seeds that have been sown, we are provided bread for food.

 - God is a Giver. We can be confident that He will always provide for us. Share a recent experience where you experienced the generosity of God?
3. **Multiplied seed.**

There are three aspects of the Law of Seedtime and Harvest:

 1. You only reap what you sow.
 2. You only reap after you sow.
 3. You always reap more than you sow.
 - Why is multiplication blessing only possible from that which has already been sown?
4. **Increased righteousness.**

As we get into the cycle of trusting God and sowing seed, or in other words, offerings, it grows our faith, trust, and relationship with God.

 - What does “increased righteousness” look like in the life of a Believer?

Life Challenge

This week, take an inventory of your harvest. What changes do you believe God wants you to make in the amount you sow? What changes do you believe God wants you to make in the kind of seed you sow?

Prayer

Father, thank You for Your generosity that goes above what we could hope, dream or ask. We trust You not only with our tithe but with offerings for missions, the poor, and building Your kingdom. Thank You for Your law of seedtime and harvest and that You give seed to the sower. Amen. Pray for the specific needs of the group.