

Week Two: “Compounding Joy”
Day One: “Who Is the Owner?”

Read: Psalm 24 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, p. 606)

Read: *The Treasure Principle*, p. 20 to bottom of p. 24

Reflect: What are the most important things that you “own”?

What does our culture tell us about owning more stuff?

Dig: According to Psalm 24:1, what does God own?

According to this Psalm, could we say that people should control their own destinies? Why or why not?

According to this Psalm, who gets blessings from God? (Hint: This Psalm lists at least three heart attitudes.)

Look up Job 41:11. What does this text add to your understanding of who owns what?

Apply: Since “God owns everything and we are just his money managers,” how do you need to manage your money differently to serve the desires of the owner? (*The Treasure Principle*, p. 23)

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Day Two: “Joyful Giving”

Read: 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, p. 1337)

Read: *The Treasure Principle*, bottom of p. 24 to middle of p. 28

Reflect: When did you really enjoy giving to another person something that cost you dearly?

Why is that such a joyful experience?

Dig: What analogy or word-picture does Paul use in verse 6?

Could some people use verse 7 in the wrong way?

How does Matthew 23:23 help fill out the picture here?

Why might God love a cheerful giver?

What promise does God give to those who practice what verses 6 and 7 instruct us to do?

Apply: Ask God to open your heart to the joy of giving. Ask him to give you a joyfully generous heart.

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Day Three: “Thunder, Lightning, and Grace”

Read: 2 Corinthians 8:6-9 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, p. 1336)

Read: *The Treasure Principle*, middle of p. 28 to top of p. 31

Reflect: If “grace” is getting what we don’t deserve, in what ways in your life have you received grace both from God and from others.

Dig: The word “for” appears in the beginning of verse 9. This gives the reason for giving. What is that reason?

What comparison is Paul making in verse 8? What conclusions would you draw from this about whether it is OK to tell stories of generous giving?

How might this text change the way we think about giving to people who “deserve it”?

What are all the qualities that Paul hopes for in the Corinthians? See verse 7.

Which of these qualities are you lacking?

Apply: List the ways that God has blessed and graced you.

Next, list the ways that you ought to be gracious in response.

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Day Four: “The Fringe Benefits of Giving”

Read: 2 Corinthians 9:12-15 (*Freedom in Christ*, p. 1337)

Read: *The Treasure Principle*, top of p. 31 to bottom of p. 33

Reflect: When did you give something away and it gave you great joy?

Dig: What are the results that are listed by Paul as a consequence of the giving of the Corinthians?

How does “obedience” function here? What is the word that Paul uses to describe their obedience?

What happens to the prayers of the people who are receiving this generosity?

What is the “gift” that Paul is speaking of in verse 15?

Apply: How does giving money affect your attitude toward God and others?

Write out a prayer asking God to give you a generous heart and a sense of the joy that comes from such giving.

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Day Five: “God Owns Everything, I’m Just His Money Manager”

Using the “Lectio Divina” method of Bible study (see page 2 of this booklet), meditate on this scripture:

“The earth is the Lord’s and everything in it, the world and all who live in it.” Psalm 24:1 (NIV)

Lectio divina (a Latin expression which means Sacred reading) is done in three stages:

- reading: you read the passage slowly and reverentially, allowing the words to sink into your consciousness; after you have memorized the text, write down one word which strikes you and draws your attention and note why you chose that word.
- meditation: you allow the passage to stir up memories within you, so that you recognize in it your own experience or that of people who have touched your life; write down memories of events or conversations or other scripture passages.
- prayer: you allow the meditation to lead you to prayer - thanksgiving, humility and petition. Write out a prayer based on the passage.