

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

“FIRST FRUITS — NOT BEING CONTENT WITH LEFTOVERS”

Luke 6:37-38

Pastor Miles McPherson – Jan 18, 2015

In Sunday's message Pastor Miles taught about *First Fruits*.

First Fruits can be an idiom for 'Giving God our best'. If we can pause for a moment and take a minute to evaluate our lives, if we can get a little transparent with each other, we can see that often times we tend to give God the leftovers in our lives.

As Pastor Miles taught on Sunday we want to continue to be people that are 'Giving our best to God' (like God has done for us) not hoarders of what God has given. We want to live our lives in such a way that we realize, remember and remind ourselves that our skills, our passions, our abilities, our minds, our strength – our EVERYTHING – is a gift from God. We want to be people that live with our hands open realizing and understanding that everything we have is a gift from God.

So, as we get into this open yourself up to hear from God!

MEMORY VERSE

Luke 6:37-38 NLT

“Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn others, or it will all come back against you. Forgive others, and you will be forgiven.

Give, and you will receive.

Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap.

The amount you give will determine the amount you get back. ” Luke 6:37-38 NLT

DISCUSSION STARTERS

1. Take a minute in your group and share about some of the things that get in the way of 'Giving God your best'.
2. Have these things you shared been ongoing tensions in your relationship with God or maybe season of life tensions job/kids/moving/etc.?
3. As a group are there any themes or patterns that you can see?
What are some of those themes and/or patterns?
Can some of you share about some of the victories you've had with these themes or patterns?



STUDY QUESTIONS

READ: Proverbs 3:5

1. Do you ever battle trusting God with all your heart? What are some areas where trust has been difficult for you?
2. How about trusting God with your time, talents, and treasures – has that been difficult for you? What are some ways with your *First Fruits* you've chosen to put God first?
3. Often times when trust is difficult we can lose sight of the ways God has provided. Take a minute to write down a few things God has provided for you, your family, etc.
4. When you think about these things what picture does it give you of God (A word, a literal image, a feeling, etc.)?

READ: Proverbs 18:11

1. In our culture, what tends to be our perception of money?
2. What security does money usually give us?
3. Do you ever feel you are building a “fortified city” – regardless of how much you have?

READ: Luke 6:38

1. As you read this verse what stands out to you?
2. Think about your life right now – when you think of your willingness to ‘give of yourself’ – does this verse make you feel more content or discontent? In what area(s)?
3. What promise do you see in this verse? What does this promise mean to you?

Generosity is one of the things that opens up our lives for God's blessing.

As Christians, from the very beginning we were blessed so that we would be a blessing.

We weren't called so that we would hoard all our stuff – living in fear that we wouldn't have enough for all we want.

When we live generously it begins to set us free, it begins to allow us to really depend on God. Hoarding on the other hand – hoarding traps us in our own little “fortified city”.

Today, do you believe that God is always going to provide for you?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

1. Generosity at times can be a lost art – take a few minutes and make a list of 3 ways you can be generous this week – with your family, your job, your neighborhood and at The Rock?



TAKE IT HOME!

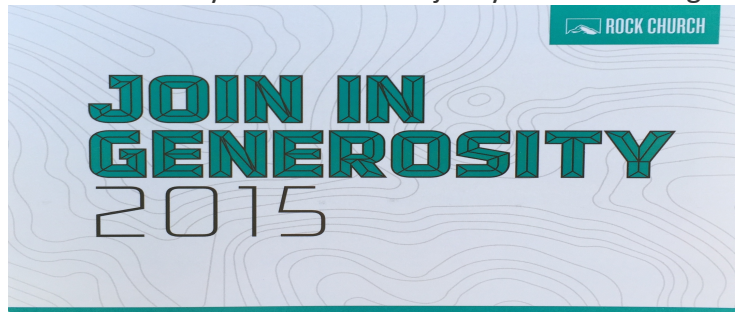
Pastor Miles asked everyone that calls Rock Church their home to *Join in Generosity 2015*. Your commitment to *Join in Generosity* is designed to encourage you to trust God with your finances. Scripture instructs us to bring our “first fruits” to the Lord. In regards to our finances, this means that before we spend on anything else, we are to give back to the Lord.

Tithing is an **ACT OF FAITH** that shows

- (1) we believe that all we have belongs to the Lord, and
- (2) that we trust that God will provide all that we need.

To help you take that step of faith, we encourage you to start tithing today to Rock Church.

We think you will be amazed at how much better you will live on 90% of your income with your faith in the Lord versus 100% of your income and just your own strength.



<http://www.sdrock.com/tithechallenge/>

So today, deepen your faith and take the Tithe Challenge.

It will enrich your walk with God and allow you to experience your Christian faith in new and vibrant ways.

