

CONNECTGROUPGUIDE

SOW • GROW • GIVE

sow in faith • grow in grace • give in love

Year of
HOPE
2025



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Welcome to our 2025 series looking at the discipleship of our finances.

How to use this booklet

There are four studies in this booklet

- If your group meets **weekly** please **choose two of the studies**
- If your group meets **fortnightly** please **choose one study**

You are welcome to use the other studies for your private devotions if you wish.

Please note: The focus reading is different across services

Sunday 26th October	Sunshine and Tewanin Peregian	Matthew 25:14-30 Matthew 22:15-22
Saturday 1st November	Sunshine and Tewanin combined service	2 Corinthians 9:6-15
Sunday 2nd November	Peregian	2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Some guidelines for Connect Group ...

- Come to the study prepared; preparation will greatly enrich your time together; it is recommended to take notes during the Sunday sermon, and to write down your thoughts as you prepare
- As part of your preparation, why not listen to the sermon again during the week (*most sermons are recorded and available on Apple Podcasts, and also on the website*)
- As you prepare, pray that God will speak to you through his word
- Be willing to participate in your group. Your sharing will greatly encourage all the other members as you grow together
- Stick to the topic - this allows everyone to participate on level ground and to go deeper into the Bible
- Be sensitive to others and listen attentively; affirm others, especially those who may feel timid or don't often share
- Your leader won't be lecturing, but helping members to think through the questions. Some of the questions don't have a 'right' answer, especially those that apply the Bible to our lives
- Be careful not to dominate, as it could inhibit others from sharing
- Expect God to teach you through the passage and through other members, and always pray that it will be a profitable time together

ICE BREAKER

Is this parable true in worldly terms? Why? Why not?

INTRO

Some versions of the Bible use the word 'talents', and other versions 'bags of gold'. The Greek word is talent and literally means money. The English language has picked up this word and developed it to mean gifts.

Read Matthew 25:14-30

1. In this parable who does the master represent? What does the journey represent? Who are the servants?
2. On what basis were the first two servants rewarded?
3. On what basis was the third servant punished?

4. How do you feel about the Master's treatment of the third servant?
5. How does this parable illustrate both the kindness and severity of God? (Cf Romans 11:22)
6. When in Kingdom terms, if ever, have you observed this parable to be true?
7. Would you like to share with the group one way you are investing in the Kingdom of God? This may be in terms of your church or a Christian mission you support. You don't have to be specific about the amount of your giving; simply share where your heart is for seeing the Kingdom grow.



- Pray for the Kingdom work you have shared in question 7
- Pray for everyone in our church to grow in generous giving and serving to see the Kingdom grow through our church

ICE BREAKER

When have you seen generosity make a real difference — in your life or someone else's?

Read Matthew 22:15-22

1. How does this encounter show Jesus' ultimate allegiance?
2. What's the difference between "giving to Caesar" and "giving to God"?
3. What does it mean to belong to God because we're made in His image?

4. How can our giving reflect our love and loyalty to Jesus?

5. What kinds of "Caesars" compete for our allegiance today? (money, comfort, career, etc.)

6. How might love motivate generosity more powerfully than obligation or guilt?

7. How could we as a connect group or church family "give in love" together — reflecting the love of Jesus in our community?



- Ask God to reshape your values to line up with His values. Pray for more resources to use for God's glory

ICE BREAKER

Share an example from your life of either sowing sparingly and reaping sparingly or sowing generously and reaping generously. This may have to do with money or simply effort.

Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

1. How is it generally true that we reap what we sow? Can you think of exceptions to this rule?
2. In what way is it always true that we reap what we sow? Cf Romans 5: 3-5
3. Why is Christian giving always cheerful?

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| <p>4. What is the significance of the word 'all' in v8? What does this first tell us about God?</p> <p>5. What might the 'harvest of your righteousness' look like in practical terms?</p> <p>6. Who might be offering the 'many expressions of thanks to God'?</p> | <p>7. People thank other people for acts of generosity; how often do people also thank God?</p> <p>8. What should accompany our generous giving? V14</p> |
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- Pray for the Christian ministries you financially support
- Pray for generous, sacrificial, cheerful giving to pervade our church so that we might reap a generous harvest for the Kingdom of God

ICE BREAKER

What is one lesson about money you can recall learning from your parents?

Read Malachi 3:1-12

1. How has the Lord refined you over the years in your giving to his work?
2. What does it mean to bring 'offerings in righteousness'? V3

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| <p>3. Which of the sins in v5 do you think is most prominent in our society today, where there is a need for repentance? Do you need to repent in any of these areas? Are you doing anything to promote social justice in any of these areas? Or other areas?</p> <p>4. How might we rob God in terms of our tithes and offerings today?</p> | <p>5. God's blessing can come as a result of him creating favourable circumstances for a good harvest. How else might God's blessing flow from our obedience to him?</p> |
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- Pray we might be a Church that is not guilty of robbing God, but gives generous tithes and offerings
- Pray for God to throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out his righteousness



*Living to Love and
Proclaim Jesus*

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