

**October 26 & 27, 2019 | Greater Things – week 1**  
**Group Discussion Questions**

**GROUP PREP**

In preparation for group, [watch Emmanuel's Weekend Services message](#), then answer the following discussion questions.

**INTRODUCTION**

♪ Money, money, money... money! ♪ We are constantly thinking about money, stressing over money, working for more money, spending money or finding ways to save money. But how often do we think about how we can give our money away? We fool ourselves if we don't think our relationship with money is uber-spiritual. To thrive, it is essential to allow God to guide our stewardship of money.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. By what standard should we decide what is or is not a generous lifestyle? Do you consider yourself generous? Why or why not?

2. Read [1 Timothy 6:17-18](#). Giving is commanded because it doesn't come naturally to us. Studies show that only 1% of Christians who make over \$75k/year give back the tithe (10%) to God's church, and on average, Christians give 2.5% of their income. Below are four reasons that keep Christians from living a generous lifestyle partnered with four biblical truths about money.

*We don't give because we are selfish, but God cares about people and wants us to do the same.*

- Read [Matthew 19:21](#). How have you been blessed or witnessed someone else being blessed by Emmanuel?

*We don't give because we are mistaken about the purpose of money, but money's primary purpose is to be an instrument of blessing.*

- Read [Matthew 6:24](#). How should we position our finances to worship God through them?

*We don't give because we believe lies about what money can do for us, but money will not make us happy.*

- Read [Acts 20:35](#). What makes it easy to believe that happiness is produced by receiving? Why is it so important to trust the principle that "it is more blessed to give than to receive?"

*We don't give because we are short-sighted, but Christ-followers should be living this life for the benefit of God's kingdom.*

- Read [Matthew 6:19-21](#). If someone reviewed our bank account, what should they see to know we are living for heaven?

3. Why are we commanded to live a lifestyle of generosity?

Of the four reasons we don't give, which most resonates with you? Is there a reason not mentioned that keeps you from being generous?

If you begin living a more generous lifestyle, what benefits do you foresee?

**ACTION STEP**

4. Read [Hebrews 10:24-25](#). What steps will you take to live a more generous lifestyle, and how could this group more intentionally motivate one another to stay consistent?

### **OUTREACH: GROUPS IN ACTION**

**PACK A BAG.** Emmanuel is collecting non-perishable food items for families in need. In your lobby, there are metal bins with bags inside. Take a bag and fill it with the items attached, then bring the bag back to place it in the bin. Emmanuel's local nonprofit partnership, the Refuge, will pick up the items and distribute them as needed this holiday season.

**DIAPER DASH.** November 10<sup>th</sup> is Orphan Sunday. Emmanuel's Foster and Adoption Ministry plans to bless fostering and adoptive families with much needed diapers. Please purchase as many packages of diapers as you can afford and drop them off in the metal bins located in the lobby the weekend of November 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>.

To find out more details about these projects or other ways your group can serve together in our community, email Breanne Schafer at [bschafer@eclife.org](mailto:bschafer@eclife.org)

### **FILL IN THE BLANKS BELOW FOR THIS UPCOMING WEEK'S ACTION STEPS.**

My action step is \_\_\_\_\_.

This coming week, I will encourage \_\_\_\_\_ to complete their action step.

Their action step is \_\_\_\_\_.

My memory verse is \_\_\_\_\_.

This coming week, I will pray for the group's following prayer requests:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____