

# FINANCIAL FREEDOM

## Life Group Leaders Guide

### Directions

This packet contains a leading guide that will help you lead effectively through the supplied *ABC's of Financial Freedom Workbook* by Barry Cameron. We believe by using this guide alongside the book you and your group will be able to better apply Sunday's sermon to the workbook as well as take the content deeper. This packet will be less involved than our normal curriculum because there is a lot that is provided in the workbook itself. As always, feel free to edit this guide as you see fit. As the leader, you know what will best point your people to Jesus.

### Financial Freedom Series Schedule

Week	Sermon Date	Topic of sermon	Topic of life group
Week 1	10/15	Attitude	Financial Freedom Workbook (p. 5-10)
Week 2	10/22	Bondage	Financial Freedom Workbook (p. 11-14)
Week 3	10/29	Choice	Financial Freedom Workbook (p. 15-19)
Week 4	11/5	Decision	Financial Freedom Workbook (p. 21-26)
Week 5	11/12	Encouragement	Financial Freedom Workbook (p. 27-34)
Week 6	11/19	*Here To Help: Mandate	Financial Freedom Workbook (p. 35-41)

\*Please note that the Financial Freedom series has only 5 Sunday messages but has 6 life groups that correspond with it. This means on 11/19 we will be beginning a new series, *Here to Help*, but the life group topic for that week will remain *Financial Freedom*.

### The Point Church Life Group Curriculum

## Financial Freedom - Week 3

### Purpose of Study

This study reveals a counterintuitive way to have freedom in your life...giving your money away. Although it is counterintuitive, God is clear that a part of financial freedom comes through giving your money back to Him. The bible is full of insight to support this. Also, any Christian who takes giving seriously should be able to supply a plethora of stories of how God has used giving to do the miraculous in their lives. Our hope is that this curriculum on giving will be seasoned with stories of God blessing decisions to give.

### Flow of Study

1. **Optional Icebreaker:** Can you think of a time when your parents (or some authority figure) gave you clear advice and you went in the opposite direction? How did that work out?

2. **Sermon Unpacking:** Spend some time talking through the Sunday sermon. The following questions could be helpful.
  - a. What stood out to you from the message this weekend?
  - b. Was there anything in the message that was convicting? Was there anything that was really encouraging?
  - c. Based on what you heard this weekend, is there some change that you need to make in your life?
  
3. Have someone in the group read **1 Samuel 15:22**, another person read **Proverbs 3:9-10**, and another person read **Matthew 6:31-33** (please note we added a couple verses to this one). Make sure everyone has the blanks in the workbook filled in. Allow your group time to discuss these verses. The following questions could be helpful for generating conversations about these verses:

But Samuel replied: “Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the Lord? To **OBEY** is better than **SACRIFICE**, and to heed is better than the fat of rams. ~ 1 Samuel 15:22 (NIV)

- a. Although this reference is unique, what Samuel is trying to tell Saul in this story is that obedience to what the Lord asks (even if it is counterintuitive) is always the best way for us to live. Has there been a time in your life where you learned this?
- b. What does it say about a person if they are willing to be obedient to the Lord in some things but not about finances?

Honor the Lord with your **WEALTH**, with the **FIRSTFRUITS** of all your crops; then your barns will be **FILLED** to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine. ~ Proverbs 3:9-10 (NIV)

- c. What do you think it means to give of the Lord your firstfruits? How much faith does this take?
  - i. **Hint:** During this time period people would give to the Lord the first and best of their crops. This was usually the best yield and involved a lot of faith because they were not sure with how the rest of the season would progress.
- d. In our culture today, we give to the Lord of our finances. What do you think it looks like to give to the Lord your firstfruits? Does it involve the same faith as an agricultural society?

So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek **FIRST** his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these **THINGS** will be **GIVEN** to you as WELL. ~ Matthew 6:31-33 (NIV)

- e. What is the Lord promising us in this verse?
  - f. What is the Lord not promising in this verse?
    - i. **Hint:** The Lord is promising meeting our NEEDS not our all of our WANTS.
  - g. What do you think it means to seek first God’s kingdom? What is the promise that God gives us if we are willing to seek His kingdom?
4. Walk through the 2 sections below the verses on **p. 15**.
  
  5. Walk through the tithe information on **p. 16** by having a group member read **Malachi 3:6-12** (please note we added a couple verses to this one), another group member read **Matthew 6:24**, and another

group member read **Leviticus 27:30**. Allow your group time to discuss these verses. The following questions could be helpful for generating conversations about these verses:

<sup>6</sup> “I the Lord do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. <sup>7</sup> Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you,” says the Lord Almighty. “But you ask, ‘How are we to return?’ <sup>8</sup> “Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. “But you ask, ‘How are we robbing you?’ “In tithes and offerings. <sup>9</sup> You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me. <sup>10</sup> Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. <sup>11</sup> I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe,” says the Lord Almighty. <sup>12</sup> “Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land,” says the Lord Almighty. ~ Malachi 3:6-12

(NIV)

- a. What stands out to you from this passage?
- b. God is clear He will pour out blessing to those who give. Using this passage, what do you think this blessing will look like?
- c. Have you experienced God holding up his side of the bargain in blessing you for giving to Him?
- d. In verse 11, it mentions a blessing by prevention of evil against the crops, have you seen this kind of blessing in your life?
  - i. **Note to the leader:** It is very easy to read Malachi 3:10 and think that if we give God our tithe we will become rich. God does promise blessing but it is not often that it will be a stack of cash sent to your mailbox. Sometimes the blessing from God is a protection against evil on our finances (i.e. prevention against sickness, car trouble, etc.).

“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. ~ Matthew 6:24 (NIV)

- e. What does someone’s life look like if they are serving money (i.e. treating money as their God)?
- f. How is giving to the Lord not a money issue but more so a master issue?

“A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord. ~ Leviticus 27:30

- g. This verse makes clear that we are giving back to the Lord from what He has giving us...He owns everything. Why is this the correct mindset for giving to God?
  - i. **Hint:** If someone thinks that they are giving to the Lord from their own possessions they might be tempted to think they deserve something in return. However, a person who believes God owns everything and has given them all they have will view giving as a joy in itself in response to how good God has been to them.

6. Make sure your people have the blanks on **p. 16** correctly filled in (an answer key to these types of questions can be found on **p. 61** of the workbook).

- a. According to Leviticus 27:30, who does the tithe belong to? **THE LORD**
- b. What does God say is that ONE THING? **TITHING**

7. Make sure your people have the blanks on the top of **p. 17** correctly filled in (an answer key to these types of questions can be found on **p. 61** of the workbook).

- a. We have the power to **CHOOSE**.

- b. Tithing is not a MONEY issue, it's a **MASTER** issue.
  - c. The tithe belongs to **THE LORD**, not us.
  - d. We are to bring the "whole tithe" into the storehouse (the local church).
  - e. **TITHING** is how we get "under the spout where God's blessings come out."
8. Make sure your people have the multiple choice questions on **p. 17** correctly filled answered.
- a. When it comes to tithing, what does God say we are to do? **Bring the whole tithe into His storehouse (the local church)**
  - b. How much is a tithe? **10 percent**
9. Challenge them to make a budget this week (they can use the blank one on **p. 19** if it works for them) and talk about it as a family. If some of your group members use a budget already, have them share what works for them to the group. This could also be a good time to talk about budgeting generally amongst the group. The following questions could help the group open up about budgeting:
- a. What do you use to track your monthly spending/bills?
  - b. Has anyone ever utilized Mint or Personal Capital to help with budgeting? Does it help?
  - c. What is the most difficult part about writing and keeping a budget?
10. Remind your group to complete the homework this week.
11. End your study with a time of prayer where people can share prayer requests and be prayed for before they leave. If possible, please steer some prayer towards what your group talked about during this study.