

**Giving**  
LifeGroup Lesson  
March 12, 2017  
Mark 8:31-38

**OPENING PRAYER:**

What a gift you have given us in Jesus, gracious God. Rekindle our faith. Renew our spirits. Vanquish our fear and grant us courage, for where we go, Jesus has gone before. In gratitude, therefore we pray and dedicate this time of study. Amen.

**BREAKING THE ICE:**

- What did you agree or disagree with in the LifeTalk this week?
- What is your earliest memory of money? Your earliest memory of giving to God?

**WRESTLING WITH THE WORD:**

Giving can be a tough spiritual discipline to discuss/study. Why do you think that is? What is it about our money that makes it 'not polite to talk about'? Giving is also associated with obligation, why do you believe that so? How does giving free us from obligation? Have you experienced this?

Today's scripture could be seen as unique for the discipline of giving. Read Mark 8:31-38.

- What jumps out at you in this scripture?
- This week's spiritual discipline is *Giving*. How do you see the passage relating with this discipline?
- 66% of Jesus' words had to deal with money, wealth and personal finances. Why do you think Jesus spent so much time talking about money? What does this mean for your life?
- Read Mark 12:41-44, what does this scripture say to you about the spiritual discipline of *Giving*? How does this scripture also relate to the passage above of Jesus predicting his death and telling us how to live?

**CLOSING POSSIBILITIES:**

- How will your life be different based upon what you have learned in this week's scripture, lesson and/or LifeTalk?
- How can the group pray for you this week?

**NEXT STEPS:**

- Look at your monthly bills/credit card statement. What are your highest spending categories? What does that say to you about what you value with your money? How does this spiritual discipline impact your spending habits?
- The tithe (10%) is a benchmark of giving used in the Old Testament. Some believe the New Testament eradicates the tithe, yet Jesus talks often about giving everything we have. Look at your giving to God, take action steps to live out this spiritual discipline. Where is your next faithful step in giving?
- If you are struggling with giving, how can you adjust your spending to give more to God and live out your faith in your wallet?

**PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:**

Lord, teach me to be generous.  
Teach me to serve you as you deserve;  
to give and not to count the cost,  
to fight and not to heed the wounds,  
to toil and not to seek for rest,  
to labor and not to ask for reward,  
save that of knowing that I do your will.  
(St. Ignatius of Loyola, 1491-1556)