

WEEK 2 | GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

CONNECT

The sermon this week asked us to consider what we are doing with the gifts we've been given and to remember that all we have has been given to us by God. With the gift-giving season upon us, think about some of the gifts you've been given. **Have you ever been regifted a gift that you gave to someone else? What is the best gift you've been given? What is the most useful gift you've been given? What is the most useless gift you've been given? Have fun discussing this with your group.**

CONSIDER

- **What was encouraging or challenging from the sermon and/or daily devotions this week?**

CHRIST

Read Luke 12:35-48 ESV.

- This portion of Scripture draws a parallel to Christ's return and reminds us that we should be ready when the Master (Jesus) returns and that He will hold us accountable with what He's entrusted us. It states in verse 48 that, "To whom much was given, to him much will be required." **What are the gifts you've been given by God? Your family or children? What gifts/talents do you have? Some examples might be teaching, encouraging others, mercy, giving, or leadership. You might be good at working with your hands or with children or youth. Do you feel that Jesus would say, "Well done, good and faithful servant" if He returned today?**
- Verses 47-48a insinuates that there is punishment coming for those who do the wrong thing with what they've been entrusted:
 - A severe punishment for those who knew the right thing to do but didn't
 - A light punishment for those who didn't know the right thing to do but still did something wrong

Do you struggle with these principles? Is it hard to understand punishment for those who didn't know the right thing to do?

Read Matthew 25:14-30.

- Again, here we see strong language and severe punishment for the servant that did nothing with what he was given. Verse 30 says to "throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." **What do you make of this tough language and punishment? Do you think most Christians pay enough attention to being good stewards of their resources and the gifts they've been given?**
- When we talk about doing the right thing with what we've been given, it's good to remember that everything we have has been given to us by God. **Do you think this is something you think about often or do you, more often than you'd care to admit, act like what you have is solely a result of your own effort?**

- When we come to the realization that everything we have is from God, it may give us a different perspective on tithing (giving back 10% of what He has already given us). Consider this: if we are thirsty, God can provide us with something to drink. If you are provided with a full glass or bottle of water, God is asking if you can rely on 90% of that to quench your thirst and give Him back the 10%. **Does this change your perspective on tithing? What is the best way to express the concept and importance of tithing?**
- Some people are generous by nature; others have learned to be more generous as they've grown in Christian maturity. Giving of our time, talent, and treasure is often described as participating in God's economy.
 - In Matthew 14:14-21 we see the story of the loaves and fishes and see how this meager offering was divinely multiplied.
 - In Luke 10:25-37 we see the story of the Good Samaritan, who gave of his time, talent, and treasure for the benefit of another, to whom most of his associates were opposed.
 - In 2 Corinthians 8 and 9, we see the Corinthian church giving faithfully to help a community of people whom they have never met.

How do you describe participating in God's economy?

CALLING

If you are not giving of your time, talent, or treasure, take the leap of faith and consider these next steps:

- If you are not tithing, take the six-month challenge and see what the result will be in your life and finances of tithing after six months. While God does not promise increased finances, He does promise in Malachi 3:8-12 protection and to "pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it." **Go to mynorthside.com/give to set up your recurring gift.**
- If you are not serving, **go to mynorthside.com/serve and find a place to serve the church or the community.**

Daily Devotions: Spend 15 minutes each day with Northside devotions. **Text DEVOTIONAL to 81212 or use the Study tab in Northside's mobile app for daily devotions.**

Memorize:

"For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required."

Luke 12:48b NKJV

Further Study:

- Exodus 36:1-7
- Proverbs 3:9
- Matthew 6:24
- Luke 16:11
- Luke 21:1-4
- John 3:27
- 1 Corinthians 4:2
- 2 Corinthians 9:6-8
- 1 Timothy 6:17-19
- 1 Peter 4:10