

## Buried Treasure

### Session One

Many people are experiencing financial challenges. They are facing growing debt, little or no savings, inadequate income, and no plans for their financial future. Surveys reveal that more than half of all divorces are a result of financial tension in the home. Others are financially sound, but suffocating materialism has robbed them of their spiritual vitality. They are not spending their resources in eternally significant ways. Fortunately, the Bible has the answers to these financial difficulties; it contains more than 2,350 verses dealing with money and possessions. More of these verses deal with the area of giving than any other financial subject. The Treasure Principle Workshop, based on Randy Alcor's best-selling book, *The Treasure Principle*, will help you gain God's perspective on giving. The Lord intends giving to be one of the most blessed and joyful experiences of our Christian life.

### VIDEO NOTES

1. The story is captured by Jesus in a single verse: "The kingdom of heaven is the \_\_\_\_\_ hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again and then in his \_\_\_\_\_ went and sold all he had and bought that field" (Matthew 13:44)

### The Money Connection

2. The parable of hidden treasure is one of many references Jesus made to money and possessions. In fact % of everything Christ said relates to this topic.
3. Why did Jesus put such an emphasis on money and possessions? Because there's a fundamental connection between our \_\_\_\_\_ lives and how we think about and handle \_\_\_\_\_.
4. We may try to divorce our faith and our finances, but God sees them as \_\_\_\_\_.
5. John the Baptist couldn't talk about spirituality without talking about how to handle \_\_\_\_\_ and possessions.
6. The traveler made short-term sacrifices to obtain a long-term \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Christ's story about treasure in the field is an object lesson concerning \_\_\_\_\_ treasure.
8. No matter how great the value of that earthly fortune, it would be \_\_\_\_\_ in eternity.
9. "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your \_\_\_\_\_ will also"
10. Consider what Jesus is saying: Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth.? Why not? Because earthly treasures are bad? No. Because they won't \_\_\_\_\_.
11. When Jesus warns us not to store up treasures on earth, it's not just because wealth might be lost; it's because wealth will \_\_\_\_\_ be lost.

### A Treasure Mentality

12. Jesus doesn't just tell us where not to put our treasures. He also gives the best \_\_\_\_\_ advice you'll ever hear: "Store up for yourselves \_\_\_\_\_ in heaven (Matthew 6:20).

13. "Store up for yourselves." Doesn't it seem strange that Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ us to do what's in our own best interests?

### The Treasure Principle

14. The Treasure Principle:

"You can't \_\_\_\_\_ it with you; but you can \_\_\_\_\_ it on ahead.

15. Anything that we put into God's hands will be ours for \_\_\_\_\_.

16. If we give instead of keep, if we invest in the eternal instead of the \_\_\_\_\_, we store up treasures in heaven that will never stop paying dividends.

17. Christ, the ultimate investment counselor, takes it further. He says, "Don't ask how your investment will be paying off in just thirty years. Ask how it will be paying off in thirty \_\_\_\_\_ years.

### Chapter Summary

1. Faith and finances are inseparable
2. Giving is the smart thing to do.
3. Develop a treasure mentality
4. You can't take it with you, but you can send it on ahead.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What surprised you in the video segment you just saw?
2. Describe your own experience on giving. What has been frustrating and what has been a blessing in your giving?
3. After viewing the first lesson of The Treasure Principle, describe the most important principle you learned?
4. How will applying this principle impact you?

### DIG DEEPER AND LEARN MORE

This session contains optional exercises you may do on your own that will help you learn and apply the Treasure Principle.

### Questions to Answer

1. Read Luke 12:16-20. List at least 2 principles it teaches.
  2. Read Luke 12:21. What important principle does it teach? What should it look like in your life?
  3. Read Mark 12:43-44. What does this passage say to you? How will you apply it?
- Getting Started Session Two

## VIDEO NOTES

1. "A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord; it is \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord." (Leviticus 27:30)
2. Proverbs 3:9 says, "Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops." God's children give Him \_\_\_\_\_, not \_\_\_\_\_. Training Wheels
3. But it seems fair to ask, "God, do you really \_\_\_\_\_ of me than You demanded of the poorest Israelite when I have our Holy Spirit living within me and I live in the wealthiest society in human history?"
4. God doesn't expect us all to give the \_\_\_\_\_ amount. God tells us in Deuteronomy that we're to give in \_\_\_\_\_ to how He's blessed us.
5. Ironically, many people cannot afford to give because they're \_\_\_\_\_. (Haggai 1:9-11)
6. It's much easier to live on 90 percent or 50 percent or 10 percent of your income inside the will of God than it is to live on 100 percent \_\_\_\_\_. Excellent Giving
7. "See that you also excel in this grace of giving" (2 Corinthians 8:7). Like piano playing, giving is a \_\_\_\_\_. With \_\_\_\_\_, we get better at it. Give it Now or Give It Later?
8. Zaccheus said, "Here and now I give half of my possessions" (Luke 19:8). If you procrastinate, the same heart that's prompting you to give today may later persuade you not to. Why? Because as a result of \_\_\_\_\_ giving, your heart's vested interests \_\_\_\_\_ on earth and \_\_\_\_\_ in heaven.
9. Death isn't your \_\_\_\_\_ opportunity to give; it's the \_\_\_\_\_ of your opportunity to give. What Will We Leave The Kids?
10. Leaving a large inheritance to children is not just a \_\_\_\_\_ opportunity to invest in God's kingdom. It's also rarely in the \_\_\_\_\_ best interests.
11. Your children should love the Lord, work hard, and experience the joy of \_\_\_\_\_ God. Why Has God Entrusted So Much To Us?
12. Jesus said, "Give, and it will be \_\_\_\_\_ to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you" (Luke 6:38). The more you give, the more comes back to you, because God is the greatest giver in the universe, and He won't let you \_\_\_\_\_ Him.
13. Paul tells us exactly why He provides us with more money than we need: "Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and \_\_\_\_\_ your store of seed" (2 Corinthians 9:10). "You will be made rich in every way so that you can be \_\_\_\_\_ on every occasion" (2 Corinthians 9:11).

### Treasure Principle Key #6:

God prospers me not to raise my standard of \_\_\_\_\_, but to raise my standard of \_\_\_\_\_.

14. "At the present time your \_\_\_\_\_ will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you \_\_\_\_\_. Then there will be equality, as it is written: "He who gathered much did not have too much, and he who gathered little did not have too little" (2 Corinthians 8:14-15). Why does God give some of His children more than they need and others less than they need? So that He may use His children to

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## Chapter Summary

1. Begin by giving a tithe.
2. The tithe is God's historical method to get us on the path of giving.
3. Giving is a skill that needs practice
4. Learn to give as much as you can.
5. Let God decide how much to provide for your adult children.
6. The more you give, the more comes back to you.
7. God prospers me not to raise my standard of living but to raise my standard of living but to raise my standard of giving.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you think training wheels is a good analogy for tithing? Why or why not?
2. How do you respond to the idea that many people can't afford to give generously—precisely because they're not giving?
3. Remember Scott, the guy who laughed when Bill Bright challenged some people to give a million dollars but then grew in his giving as God blessed him? Don't worry about the numbers for a moment; just consider the concept. Discuss the principle and its application for anyone at any income level.
4. In what ways could you begin implementing the principle of giving more now rather than trying to amass a large amount to give later or when you die?
5. What do you think about the principle that God gives some of His children more than they need and others less than they need so that He may use them to help one another?

## DIP DEEPER AND LEARN MORE

### Questions to Answer

1. Read Malachi 3:8-10. Do you think God is serious about our giving? Why do you think it's so important to Him?
2. Read Haggai 1:9-11. Do you really believe that God can orchestrate events in such a way that they appear to be merely natural? Can you think of events in your own past that might have turned out quite differently if you had been faithfully acting as God's manager rather than a self-absorbed owner?
3. Read 2 Corinthians 9:10-14. In verse 11, Paul says that "you will be made rich in every way." What reason does He give for God doing this?
4. Verses 13 and 14 mention several benefits for the gift the Corinthians have promised. List them.
5. Read 2 Corinthians 8:13-15. How does the basic principle of this passage conflict with the competitive mindset our culture has—thinking that people prove their worth by outperforming and out-earning others?

For Such A Time As This

Session Three

## VIDEO NOTES

### Five Minutes After We Die

1. Christians don't receive a second chance to live life over-doing more to help the needy and invest in God's kingdom. We have \_\_\_\_\_ opportunity-a lifetime on earth-to use our resources to make a difference.
2. Ask yourself, Five minutes after I die, what will I \_\_\_\_\_ I would have given away while I still had the chance?The Gift of Giving
3. Scripture tells us not to give in order to be seen by men (Matthew6:1). Certainly we should be careful to avoid pride. But Jesus also said, "Let your light shine before men, that they may \_\_\_\_\_ your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16)
4. Through an unfortunate misinterpretation of biblical teaching, we're \_\_\_\_\_ giving under a basket. As a result, we're not teaching Christians to give. And they're lacking joy and \_\_\_\_\_ because of it.
5. King David told the people exactly how much he'd given to build the temple. The precise amounts of gold and precious stones given by the \_\_\_\_\_ were also made public. "The people rejoiced at the willing response of their leaders, for they had given freely and wholeheartedly to the Lord" (1 Chronicles 29:6-9).A Sense of Destiny
6. Remember what Mordecai said to Esther? "If you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from \_\_\_\_\_ place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to royal position for \_\_\_\_\_ as this?" (Ester 4:14)
7. Remind yourself again why the God of providence has \_\_\_\_\_ you with so much: "Your plenty will supply what they needâ€”so that you can be \_\_\_\_\_ on every occasion" (2 Corinthians 8:14; 9:11)
8. Why not set a figure you can \_\_\_\_\_, then tell God that everything He provides beyond that amount you'll give back to Him?
9. Let's give until our hearts are more in touch with God's \_\_\_\_\_ than with our remodeling projects, business ventures, dream vacations, or retirement plans.Thoughts To Consider
10. Giving should start with your local Bible-believing, Christ-centered \_\_\_\_\_, the spiritual community to which you are accountable. Beyond that, you can generously support worthy missions and para-church \_\_\_\_\_, carefully evaluating them by biblical standards.

### My Giving Covenant

I affirm God's full ownership of me and everything entrusted to me.

I set aside the "firstfruits"; at least 10 percent of every wage and gift I receive as holy and belonging exclusively to the Lord.

Out of the remaining treasures God entrusts to me, I seek to make generous freewill gifts.I ask God to teach me to give sacrificially to His purposes, \_\_\_\_\_ including helping the poor and reaching the lost.

Recognizing that I cannot take earthly treasures from this world, I determine to lay them up as heavenly treasures- for Christ's glory and the eternal good of others and myself.

I ask God to show me how to lead others to the present joy and future reward of the Treasure Principle.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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### The Greatest Pleasure

11. "The Lord Jesus himself said: "It is \_\_\_\_\_ to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35)
12. "We're so absorbed with "getting what's \_\_\_\_\_" that we miss what brings the real blessing and joy — giving God what's \_\_\_\_\_.
13. "Embrace Christ's invitation: "Give, and it will be \_\_\_\_\_ to you" (Luke 6:38). Then when He gives you more, remind yourself why: that you may be generous on every occasion.

### Chapter Summary

1. Five minutes after we die, we'll know exactly how we should have lived.
2. Giving is for everyone.
3. Develop a sense of destiny.
4. When you give, you'll feel His pleasure.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Recalling Alfred Nobel's story, how do you think your friends would summarize your life? What would they see as your greatest contribution to the world so far? What do you think would stand out to them as having been most important to you?
2. What do you think God would say was most important to you?
3. What would you like God and others to say was most important to you? Are you moving in that direction?
4. Imagine your thoughts five minutes after you die. Try to describe what you imagine.
5. How does the perspective that you are among the world's wealthy strike you?
6. Have you set a figure you can live on, telling God that everything He provides beyond that amount (adjusted for inflation) will be given back to Him? If not, will you pray about it now and consider setting a figure within the next 30 days?
7. Have you signed the Giving Covenant? If not, will you pray about it and consider signing it now? 8. What have you purposed to do with this covenant?

### DIG DEEPER AND LEARN MORE

#### Questions to Answer

1. Take a few minutes to do the valuable exercise mentioned after Alfred Nobel's story: Think about your obituary would say if it were written today. What would others say characterized your life? Write them down.

2. Now write your obituary from heaven's perspective. Think in terms of deeds, not merely good intentions. What would God find notable about your life?
3. As you look at your answers to the two preceding questions, what changes would you like to make in your values and lifestyle to improve those answers?
4. Read Matthew 7:9-12 and 22:36-40. Is it possible to love without giving? How does God connect the two? Since "all the law and the prophets hang on these two commandments," how important do you think they are to God? How much do you think they will count toward your final grade?

#### Acknowledgments

The source of this curriculum is The Treasure Principle Workshop.  
For a deeper and more comprehensive study refer to The Treasure Principle Workshop: Discovering the Secret of Joyful Giving, which can be found in Journey's Resource Library.